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Dow gains 5 percent on hints of rate cut

NEW YORK (AP) – The Dow industrials soared 380 points yesterday, leaping its biggest point gain ever after the Federal Reserve signaled it might lower interest rates.

The Dow Jones industrial average finished up 380.53 points at 8,020.78 – the market's first foray above 8,000 points since its 512-point drop on August 31. The blue-chip barometer gained a healthy 5 percent for the day.

The Dow is still sharply below its mid-summer peak, however. The market is 1,300 points, or 14 percent, below its July 17 record of 9,337.97.

The buying frenzy followed comments Friday evening by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan indicating that the financial turmoil in Asia and Russia may pose more of a threat than inflation. With the fiscal trouble abroad now threatening Latin America and Canada, Greenspan said the Fed is growing more concerned about the world crises' drag on the US economy.

Market reports, Page 16.



Rafaelle Engerlin applauds yesterday's beginning of the school year with her fellow first graders at the Szold Elementary School in Jerusalem's Katamon neighborhood. (Brian Hendler)

Pupils, teachers share lessons of school strike

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The new sneakers looked shinier, the backpacks flashier, and the blackboards cleaner yesterday morning, as the doors finally opened at the Torah-Science Elementary School in Jerusalem's Ramot neighborhood.

But from the school's first grade to the 12th grade in the neighboring ORT Ramot High School, the school strike still hung in the air – with pupils, parents, teachers, and principals digesting the week of turmoil that preceded yesterday's celebrations.

Celebrating was most of what was going on in the elementary school's first grade, where Barbie and Chicago Bulls backpacks were predominant.

Six-year-old Elya Kedmi was settling into her seat as she and her mother anxiously awaited her teacher's arrival.

Flouncing her lady-bug dress one more time as she cast a wary eye at the youngsters around her, Kedmi said: "It's more fun to be here than at home, because we learn and play and there's recess. At home, all I did was be bored all day. Mommy told me there was school today, and I was very happy."

But classmate Tal Hava wasn't so sure. She said she only felt "so-so" about being back in school. Checking her backpack one more time, she said: "It was more fun at home. They also bought me games." But as she watched the scene around her, with parents filming their youngsters with video cameras or begging them to sit still in their tiny chairs for pictures, Hava seemed to change her mind.

"I guess I *am* looking forward to playing and going to second grade next year. It's a *little* more fun to be here after all."

Aviad Levinger agreed as he proudly eyed his Power Rangers backpack. "I went with my mother to work and played at home; it was boring. The teachers' strike wasn't any fun. I wanted to come here, because I know it's not boring in first grade."

The parents seemed almost as excited as the first-graders. "I breathed a real sigh of relief this morning," Avi Oren, whose daughter Yael was settling in, said. "It's great fun to see the kids happy and enjoying the opening of the school day. Everyone has been waiting for this day. I was very angry at the teachers, but it's important to me that things get off on the right foot."

Still, the parents hadn't forgotten the difficult week they'd endured. Hana Itzkovitch said it was great to bring her daughter Reut to first grade, "but it's too bad that it had to be delayed like this. I think it's a shame that this entire week was wasted, and the children lost out on all the excitement of September 1. It very much confused the first-graders, I think. I think it was even more difficult than usual for my daughter, more than if school had started on time."

Not all schools open, Page 3

See SCHOOL, Page 2

US officials downplay Ross visit

By DANNA HARMAN and HILLEL KUTTLER

US officials yesterday tried to lower expectations for peace envoy Dennis Ross's visit, which begins today.

A US official cautioned that while progress is possible in the talks Ross is scheduled to hold with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, there are too many variables to predict the outcome at this point.

Ross will attempt to bridge the gaps on the long overdue second redeployment and set up a summit meeting later this month among Netanyahu, Clinton, and US President Bill Clinton. It is clear that if such a meeting takes place, it would signal a deal.

The Americans, however, do not want to set themselves up for failure, and thus they have refused to define a summit as the only goal of Ross's mission or to say how long he will be staying.

An interim agreement could be sealed later this month, when Clinton, Netanyahu, and Arafat travel to New York for the opening session of the UN General Assembly, a source in Washington said yesterday.

Ross's visit could narrow much of the gap between the sides, he added, with the agreement possibly being finalized in a series of bilateral meetings when the three leaders are in New York.

According to an administration official, the US does not believe that Ross is on the verge of concluding a deal now. But, he added, the US is sufficiently encouraged by the progress of recent negotiations between the parties for Clinton to have decided last week to accede to Netanyahu's and Arafat's requests that he dispatch Ross again.

"Both parties asked [Ross] to come out," the official said. "They felt they were close enough but that they were not there and they felt they needed his assistance."

State Department spokesman James Rubin called Ross's latest venture to the region "appropriate," but he, too, maintained that a deal is not at hand.

"I think Ambassador Ross is not going there expecting to achieve a breakthrough imminently," Rubin said. "On the other hand, I think he has a fair degree of optimism coming from the progress that's occurred over the last several weeks."

He would not discuss whether Israel now accepts the American proposal for a 13 percent withdrawal. But many believe that Ross would not be returning other than to try to finesse the final 3% that Israel wants to be declared a nature reserve, with limits on Palestinian construction. "The overall sense we have here is that the administration understands that we're on board and that there's still work that needs to be done to make sure the Palestinians agree on this," an Israeli Embassy official said.

Cairo equipped for key role, Page 2

The US earlier this summer declined a request from Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to send Ross back to help broker a deal. This time, though, the US believes its role is crucial in preventing recent gains from evaporating.

The latest American effort to broker a redeployment deal was the subject of detailed discussions Monday and yesterday at the embassy with consuls-general from throughout the US.

According to a participant, Ambassador Zalman Shoval and Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur discussed how the diplomats could best take advantage of a deal to win public relations points.

The Palestinians maintain that while they will accept the original US proposal calling for a 13% withdrawal, they will not consider the Israeli modification of that plan.

Israel, in turn, argues the Palestinians had initially accepted this plan, which is Israel's only offer, and later backtracked. Both sides say the ball is in the other's court.

Other key issues, such as security assurances, also remain unresolved and on the table.

Netanyahu met with his inner cabinet yesterday to hone the Israeli stance.

See ROSS, Page 2

PM cites illness, suspends budget debate

By NINA GILBERT

The cabinet last night suspended its deliberations on the 1999 state budget, after Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, citing a "mild illness," canceled plans to meet through the night in an attempt to win the support of a majority of ministers.

The discussions are to continue tomorrow, the Prime Minister's Office said last night, after Netanyahu's return from a one-day trip to Georgia. The office said a doctor had ordered Netanyahu to rest before leaving early this morning.

Mofaz lobbies for more money, Page 2

The cabinet's evening session was postponed when Netanyahu convened the security cabinet in advance of the visit of US peace envoy Dennis Ross.

At present, only six of 17 ministers – Netanyahu, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, Communications Minister Limor Livnat, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, and Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom – solidly back the Treasury's NIS 173.8b. budget, including NIS 2.2b. in cuts. If their spending demands are met, several others are likely to vote in favor.

The Treasury is still holding talks with the ministries to find ways to make changes in spending, but within the budget framework. The budget, which should have been approved 10 days ago, has to be voted on soon to enable the Treasury to present the budget bill to the Knesset in October.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, Education Minister Yitzhak Levy, and Science Minister Silvan Shalom were the only ministers to speak during the two-hour cabinet meeting, all of them against the package.

See BUDGET, Page 2

Agency: Interest in aliya growing among CIS Jews

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Long lines of potential immigrants formed outside the Jewish Agency offices in Moscow yesterday for the first time in years as the ruble continued to fall, according to Jewish Agency emissaries.

The emissaries said there were entirely new faces among those coming to the offices, including people who had shown no interest in Jewish and Israeli affairs previously.

Owing to the large number of applicants, the emissaries were forced to provide information to groups rather than on an individual basis. But they stressed that the interest on the part of most of the applicants was preliminary and did not indicate an upcoming large wave of immigration.

Their assessments, made by phone to Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg, were conveyed to *The Jerusalem Post* by agency officials.

Amos Lahat, head of the agency's unit that deals with the former Soviet Union, said: "There is a great deal of interest but there is no hysteria. There is a process which has begun. It can be seen in the far-eastern regions of Russia too, near the Korean border, as well as Moscow, which has not been a center for immigration [in the last few years]."

Yeltsin may pick new PM candidate, Page 7

He added that "no one is taking out tickets yet. It is a process we expect will build up."

Moscow and St. Petersburg have accounted for some 10% of aliya from Russia since 1995. Most immigrants from the former Soviet Union have been coming from the Ukraine and the Asian republics.

The emissaries also reported that the number of students signing up for Hebrew lessons at ulpanim had doubled compared to the same period last year.

No Starr report preview for White House – lawmakers

WASHINGTON (Reuters) – There should be no White House preview of a much-anticipated report on the Monica Lewinsky scandal by independent counsel Kenneth Starr, two powerful US Republican lawmakers said yesterday.

"Why should they get special treatment?" Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott said, referring to David Kendall and his colleagues, who are Clinton's private attorneys. "I presume they'll get it when the House gets it. They'll have a chance to respond."

Meanwhile, Attorney-General Janet Reno opened an investigation into whether President Bill Clinton violated campaign spending laws during his 1996 reelection effort.

Her move to a formal preliminary investigation followed a 30-day review of whether campaign spending laws had been violated and represented a step forward as Reno considers whether an independent counsel should be named.

Lott said Clinton's attorneys should not get an advance copy of the report on possible impeachable offenses in the case, certainly not before the report is forwarded to the House of Representatives.

Lott, a Mississippi Republican, told reporters Kendall's request for an early copy could be an attempt to delay House proceedings.

"I don't think he owes Mr. Kendall very much under the circumstances," Sen. Orrin Hatch, a Utah Republican, told reporters. "I don't see any reason in the world to give White House counsel or Mr. Kendall an advance copy."

Hatch said he thought the report would be delivered to Capitol Hill by the end of this week. "I think it's going to be pretty bad," he said.

Asked if that meant highly graphic in its account of the sexual affair between Clinton and Lewinsky, he said: "I've been led to believe they won't mince any words."



Independent counsel Kenneth Starr leaves his McLean, Virginia, home for Washington yesterday. (AP)

In a letter sent to Starr on Monday, Kendall asked that he and Clinton's White House lawyers get to see any report before it goes to Congress so that they can offer their response at the same time as Starr's report is filed.

"We believe that fundamental fairness dictates that we have the opportunity to review such a document and submit simultaneously any reply we wish to make," Kendall wrote.

Asked whether Clinton supported Kendall's letter, White House spokesman Mike McCurry told reporters: "The president supports the idea of fundamental fairness."

There was no comment on Kendall's letter from Starr's office, which has refused to confirm a report is being written. But the House is bracing for such a report and has scheduled a meeting today to discuss how it will be handled.

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NEWS

in brief

Netanyahu to meet Shevardnadze in Georgia

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is scheduled to travel to Georgia today for a one-day visit.

The prime minister will be received by Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze, hold meetings with officials, and plans to deliver a speech in parliament. In addition, he will participate in a gala evening marking 2,600 years of Jewish life in Georgia, and receive honorary citizenship of its capital, Tbilisi.

There are about 12,000 Jews in Georgia. *Danna Harman*

Amnesty slams Israeli, PA rights record

Five years of Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking has produced a grim tally of torture, political arrests, and unlawful killings in the name of guarding security, Amnesty International said in a report released today.

In a report issued to mark the fifth anniversary of the Oslo Accords, Amnesty said human rights abuses by both Israel and the Palestinian Authority – with tacit international approval – stand in the way of sustainable peace.

"The acceptance by the international community of 'peace' at any price or of a security-led agenda involving the suppression of 'terrorism' without regard for human rights has often encouraged violations," the report said.

It said thousands of Palestinians had been arrested by both Israel and the PA for arbitrary and political reasons and detained without due legal process, often following suicide bomb attacks in Israel. *Reuters*

PA security chief calls for more executions

The top security official in the Gaza Strip has urged the Palestinian Authority to carry out more executions to show it is serious about enforcing the law, his office confirmed yesterday.

The remarks by Amin Hindi, head of Palestinian intelligence in Gaza, could signal a wider acceptance of the death penalty in Palestinian society. Hindi spoke Sunday during a round table discussion.

"We should carry out the remaining death penalties to make people feel that they are living under the umbrella of the law, not under the umbrella of the power of families or clans," Hindi said. *Reuters*

Beit El celebrates 20th anniversary

Settlers at Beit El last night prepared the ground for construction of a new neighborhood in memory of Ita and her son Ephraim Tzur who were murdered by terrorists. The neighborhood is to be called Maoz Tzur.

Beit El will celebrate its 20th anniversary tonight and among the scores of guests invited to attend are Education Minister Yitzhak Levy and his deputy Moshe Peled.

Summing up the past 20 years, local council head Uri Ariel said the community is living proof that, despite all the obstacles and security problems, residents who steadfastly clung to an ideology have managed to turn their dream into a reality. *Margot Dudkevitch*

Mofaz lobbies for more money

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

As the cabinet was meeting across the street, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz was delivering his pitch for more money to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. He told the MKs the army is "in distress" over dwindling resources.

The Defense Ministry is seeking a NIS 2 billion increase to the NIS 34b. proposed in next year's budget.

After years of dwindling defense budgets, the IDF has won cross-party backing for an increase. About the only people opposed are Finance Ministry officials, who see it as unhealthy for the economy.

"The right wing wants to increase the defense budget because it wants the army to be strong," said MK Ran Cohen (Meretz). "And the left wing feels the policies of the government are increasing the probability of war, so we want to be prepared."

Mofaz told the committee that more money is needed if the IDF is to keep to its five-year plan, whose aim is to provide answers to increased long-range and non-conventional threats.

"If we don't get a significant increase, then in the long run we will be taking an unreasonable risk," Mofaz told reporters. He would not elaborate, saying only that he feels it is his responsibility to make his voice heard.

Speaking to the committee, Mofaz reportedly said that the army needs to be able to offer fair wages, not just to combat officers, to keep high quality personnel.



Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz listens as MK Dan Meridor (Likud) makes a point at yesterday's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session. (Isaac Harari)

"The IDF needs to keep people in the high-tech field and we have to give them a fair wage or they will leave for private industry, which offers such tempting wages that no Zionist can resist," Mofaz said.

MK Haggai Merom, meanwhile, announced that he is drafting a bill to cut compulsory service from its present three years to two-and-a-half years.

"What we have to do make more people serve in the army is to make a shorter term of duty so that everyone serves," Merom said.

Mofaz said that no cuts in service time are being contemplated. The army has said it will release reservists, before it cuts mandatory service.

Report: Turkish jets coming for first joint maneuvers

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and DOUGLAS DAVIS

The first joint Israeli-Turkish air exercises are to be held here from September 13 to September 18, according to the London-based *Jane's Defence Weekly*, to be published today.

Aircraft from the two countries have trained in each other's airspace over the past two years, but this will be the first joint exercise since the 1996 military cooperation agreement was signed, the weekly said.

For the past two years, Israel Air Force planes have periodically trained in Turkish airspace and Turkish fighters have flown to Israel to train; but they have never flown together.

A squadron of Turkish F-16s was here last June to receive training on testing grounds jointly run by the IAF and Rafael, the Armaments Development Authority.

The IAF and Rafael have put together an "Air Combat Maneuvering Instrumentation Range" in the Negev, where the jets trained to evade surface-to-air missiles – possibly similar to the Russian S-300 anti-aircraft missiles Greek Cypriots plan to deploy in November to balance Turkish air superiority over the island.

Meanwhile, visiting Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz confirmed yesterday in Ramallah that Israel and Turkey plan to conduct joint naval maneuvers in November.

The maneuvers, called Reliant Mermaid II, are a continuation of last January's Reliant Mermaid I, Turkish defense sources said.

"We are planning another joint naval exercise within the framework of our agreements with Turkey," said Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's spokesman, Avi Benayahu."

There is still no date yet set, but it will be a humanitarian search-and-rescue exercise," he said, adding it is not directed at any third party.

He said that Egypt and Jordan would again be asked to participate, as they were for Reliant I. Last January's exercises were condemned by Egypt, but Jordan sent an observer aboard the Turkish warship.

Ya'alon under fire

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Some think OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Moshe "Boogie" Ya'alon is too hard. Some think he's too soft; but his boss thinks he's just right.

Ya'alon came under fire yesterday from left-wing legislators for being too soft on Jewish settlers.

MK Yossi Sarid (Meretz) accused Ya'alon of "skipping and dancing" before them. He also blasted Ya'alon's orders for all officers and soldiers to perform guard duty at settlements.

"There is no reason for IDF officers, who are already heavily burdened with work and responsibility, to be guarding settlements at night," Sarid reportedly told yesterday's meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Sarid also called for Ya'alon to instill law and order among the settlers in general and the residents of Hebron in particular.

But Nissan Smolansky (NRP) said that Ya'alon was actually being too tough on Jewish settlers.

"Maybe we won't agree with him in the future. I don't know what are his political thoughts. I don't care. But even if I don't agree with him about certain issues, in general he is doing very well and we support him."

MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) said Ya'alon was trying to start off with good relations with the settlers, just as his predecessors Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan and Maj.-Gen. (res.) Amram Mitzna once did.

"But sooner or later the settlers will attack him and claim that he is a leftist or a peacemaker."

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz came to Ya'alon's defense.

"He is doing his job very well and he has full backing for the way he is acting from the chief of General Staff," Mofaz was quoted as saying. "I think he is behaving with the right balance for a general in his command, under the circumstances in which he is operating."

Cairo equipped for key role in West Bank diplomacy

ANALYSIS

By DAVID LANDAU

Israel's last-minute attempt to sway Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in favor of its stance on the redeployment begs the question of just how much influence Egypt has over Palestinian chairman Yasser Arafat.

Israel's first Arab peace partner has integrated the notion of a regional peace into its general strategic outlook, and is interested in that peace advancing. In addition, Egypt simply does not want to be left out of the regional developments, or worse still, be replaced in its role as mediator by another Arab country.

Egypt played a role in hammering out details during the late stages of the Oslo agreement, and had a major part in mediating the Oslo 2 accords, which were signed in Cairo on May 4, 1994.

Left off the main stage during the Hebron agreement, the Egyptians are now reclaiming their position as the Palestinians' main mentors.

"Egypt clearly wants to play a major role in these negotiations, wants to keep its hand on the pulse," says Ya'acov Bar Siman-Tov, head of the Hebrew University's Davis Center. "And as the sides turn to it when things get stuck, Egypt's role grows in direct proportion to how badly the direct negotiations are going."

Bar Siman-Tov explained that a strong relationship between Egypt and the Palestinians is beneficial to both parties. Egypt uses it to shore up its image as the prominent Arab leader, while the Palestinians use it to bolster their own decisions.

Israel, in turn, can also make use of the relationship – if it plays it right – by coopting the Egyptians to gain broader legitimacy for an agreement.

Israeli officials complain that Mubarak is scuttling the present negotiations by pressuring Arafat to hold out for a better withdrawal plan than the one on offer. But they hope to change that with the mission by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's senior ajdes, Uzi Arad and Dan Naveh today.

If Egypt ends up supporting the Israeli offer, and convinces the Palestinians to do the same, Netanyahu will have managed both to forward his negotiating agenda and contain any Egyptian criticism that would have been voiced had Cairo been left out of the process.

"The Egyptians, in any case, may be interested in the Palestinians putting up a fair fight, but they are certainly not rooting for a collapse of the process," says Yoram Meital, chair of the Middle East studies program at Ben Gurion University. "They could have done this a long time ago had they wanted."

"We are partners in achieving a comprehensive peace," says Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Mohammad Bassiouny. "But we are not for any kind of peace, only a just peace."

IAF strikes at Hizbullah targets in Lebanon

By DAVID RUDGE

The IAF struck twice at Hizbullah targets in the in the northeastern sector of the security zone yesterday morning. There were no reports of casualties in the attacks.

The IDF Spokesman said that in both cases the pilots reported accurate hits and that all the planes returned safely to base.

Reports from Lebanon said that two planes were involved in each raid during which several rockets were fired at targets in the Soujud and Lowaizeh areas.

Radio Beirut also reported that IDF gunners had shelled targets in the Iqlim al-Toufah region earlier in the morning.

Lebanese newspapers, meanwhile, reported that IDF troops had snatched a man from his home in Yohmore on the northern edge of the security zone on Monday.

According to the reports, troops raided the village and took the man, whose name was given as Ali Ghazal, away for questioning.

Meanwhile, the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group concluded its deliberations into six complaints from Israel and Lebanon over breaches of the understandings.

The five-nation committee recognized Israel's complaint about terrorist fire from two villages, Yatar and Roumane, north of the zone last week. It also recognized a complaint by Lebanon over the wounding of civilians in Mashgara village last week, but accepted Israel's explanation that it was the result of SLA counterbattery fire.

It rejected another Lebanese complaint about shelling of another village north of the zone after it was proved that terrorists had fired from the vicinity.

The committee called on all the sides to act more vigorously to prevent firing from inside or at populated areas, and to more fully implement all of the understandings.

ROSS

Continued from Page 1

Top aide Uzi Arad and cabinet secretary Danny Naveh are scheduled to travel to Cairo today to present Israel's position to President Hosni Mubarak. Israel believes Egypt wields great influence over the Palestinians and hopes to get Mubarak's blessing for its proposal.

Officials have said on several occasions that it was Mubarak's interference which caused Arafat to reject Israel's offer and hold out for a better deal.

Arad told Israel Radio he hopes the Egyptians will "soften their position" and take the opportunity to help with the adoption of the agreement.

Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny pointed out that while it is in Egypt's interest to see movement in the peace process, it could not come at any cost.

Labor MK Yossi Beilin, meeting with European Union envoy Miguel Moratinos, stressed the importance of having outside parties act as referees if and when a withdrawal deal is clinched.

"The redeployment agreement on its own is not enough," he said. "We need assistance to ensure there will be no one-sided actions during the interim period which would scuttle the progress."

Margot Dudkevitch and Mohammed Najib add:

Palestinian security officials met with CIA officials in Ramallah last night to discuss the security arrangement reached in US-sponsored negotiations with Israel and the Palestinians last December.

West Bank Preventive Security chief Jibril Rajoub, who took part in the meeting, said the Palestinians refused to accept any modifications of the existing agreement and said there would be additional meetings.

Rajoub, who has boycotted trilateral security meetings since the capture of two Hamas fugitives by IDF forces last November, said he attended this meeting because no Israelis were present.

He said he will refrain from participating in security meetings with Israeli officials until the two are returned.

BUDGET

Continued from Page 1

Shalom said the budget "isn't sending any message to the public and will result in a worsening of the economic situation." He also protested the fact that more R&D funds are being given to the Industry and Trade Ministry, but not his ministry. He blasted Neeman for cutting his budget to the point at which "the ministry will have to shut down," while emphasizing yesterday at school visits the importance of studying technology.

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan still opposed the budget last night, and his spokesman said his support is dependent on an increase in funding for various agricultural activities.

Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein, who is to leave for Washington today and will not be back for the vote, asked the ministers who spoke against the budget package why they supported the framework a month ago. Edelstein left a ballot with the cabinet with his vote against the budget.

Edelstein and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky are opposed to the budget's deficit target of 2 percent of GDP. Other ministers unlikely to support the budget are Shas ministers Eli Yishai and Eli Suissa and Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav.

Matza's spokesman said last night that he would vote against the budget unless the Treasury carries out its agreement to transfer NIS 350 million to the health funds.

SCHOOL

Continued from Page 1

First-grade teacher Orly Ohana, whose blackboard read festively "Welcome, First Grade!" was well aware of this, and planned to work extra hard to make it up to her class.

"The truth is that the real excitement was missing a bit, especially since in first grade we have a meeting with the children the day before school is supposed to start. That meeting was very exciting, and the children were waiting, and you prepare the classroom, and I think it was all very disappointing for them.

"I don't know how we make this up to them, because they need a week or two to get used to the place, and we have the holidays coming up soon. But I hope we'll overcome it in a day or two. We'll talk about what happened, and I'll ask them how they felt and tell them how I felt, try to explain what happened at their level, so they don't start to think there's a strike every year."

Her colleague, Na'ama Cohen, however, said: "I'm just going to tell them there was a strike and try to put it behind us. But I know that the children were very disappointed. There's only one September 1, and it's just not the same excitement. I'll try to make today even more exciting than usual to help them get over it."

Principal Yitzhak Zucker, returning to the school after a year's sabbatical, said he felt "both happy and sad. Happy because it's great to see the parents and children, sad because we were forced to be in a situation that was unpleasant for all of us for a week."

Zucker wrote a special letter to the parents and pupils on the school bulletin board, which was festooned with decorations, summing up his feelings. "An old adage says all's well that ends well," he read from the board. "And better late than never."

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Dr. Yossi Yanai will speak on "The Medical Implications of Drug Abuse."

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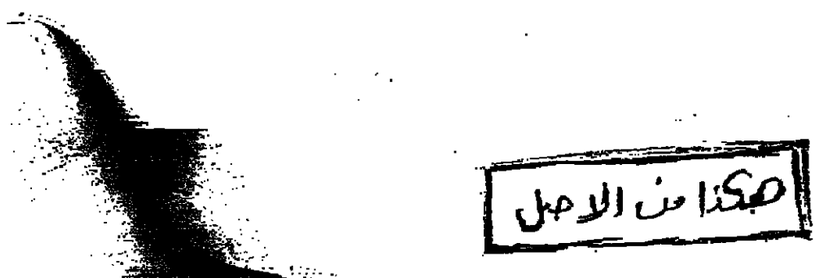
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Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu accompanies his son, Avner, yesterday to Jerusalem's Paula Ben-Gurion Elementary School. (Flash 90)

Not all schools open

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN and Itim

While the Education Ministry's situation room reported few disruptions during the first day of school yesterday after a week-long strike, there were scattered reports of school closings because of safety problems or disputes with parents.

Shai Lachman, head of the Israel Parents Association, said his organization would oppose using some 300 classrooms in prefab buildings considered dangerous, mainly in the Arab sector.

Ministry officials said the repairs necessary at these buildings "are not critical" and would be carried out.

The Afula city council and parents shut city schools yesterday, to protest the government's refusal to continue to fund some 30 local nursery schools.

Hundreds of parents blocked the entrance to the city and burned tires to protest the end of the subsidy.

Many needy parents lamented the fact they now would have to pay some NIS 600 a month for nursery school.

A spokesman for the group told Israel Radio there are many immigrants, poor people, and unemployed who cannot afford to pay such prices. They vowed to continue the strike until the nursery school subsidies are restored.

In Jerusalem, parents refused to send their children to classes at the Zion Ezri School, demanding that last year's principal stay on. In nearby Ma'aleh Adumim, parents opposed the return from sabbatical of the principal of State School B.

In Beersheba, parents threatened to close down the entire school system because of safety problems, although the municipality and the local school district approved opening the schools.

There were demonstrations in several neighborhoods, including Beersheba's Ramot section, where some 600 junior high pupils and their parents protested the pupils being forced to attend a school in another neighborhood, whose conditions are allegedly worse.

At Beersheba's Comprehensive High School Six, the parents of the two children killed June 11 when the roof of the school gym collapsed on them demonstrated outside. The mother of Shlomi Toledo, who died in the accident, told Israel Radio she wants all those responsible "to pay for this," including the principal of the school.

"She failed, so she must pay the price," said Dalia Toledo.

The local parents association said it would only allow pupils to attend school in the city if safety violations are corrected by the middle of October.

In Hadera, one school was closed because parents opposed the principal, while another was shut by parents over safety issues. There were reports of parents keeping their children home from some Druse and Arab schools where repairs were not made in time for the opening of classes.

Some 2,000 pupils stayed home in Acre. Parents at the Amal Elementary School refused to send their children to school to protest a decision not to allow a local resident to be named principal, while pupils at the comprehensive high school stayed home because the municipality failed to complete repairs.

A Ginot Shomron school was closed by parents opposed to a teacher there.

Similarly, the Gamla School in Katzrin also did not open after parents demanded that a teacher found to be unsatisfactory should be removed.

Education Ministry officials said they are aware of the problem, but could only fire the woman after completion of the two-year dismissal process.

PM's computer problems

BATSHEVA TSUR and Jerusalem Post Staff

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's claim that he had arranged to lower taxes on computers is spurious, MK Ophir Pines (Labor) said yesterday.

Netanyahu told pupils at an Abu Ghosh school, which he visited to mark the opening of the school year, that he had yesterday morning arranged with the finance minister "to abolish the remaining taxes on computers" so that schoolchildren would be able to benefit.

"Here in the school there is one computer class, and soon there will be another. We plan to increase this. I want to increase it so that every child in Israel can get computer education, both at school and at home. So we are planning on bringing 60,000 computers into the schools in the coming years, and we are planning on expanding the Computer for Every Child program that you have in the village, which has produced wonderful results," Netanyahu said.

But Pines, who heads the Knesset subcommittee on taxes, said that "there are no taxes on computers from the US or from the EU."

From other countries, he said, including the Far East, there is a 1 percent tax.

Pines described Netanyahu's statement as "yet another attempt to mislead the public."

Computer sales in the first eight months of 1998 were $380 million, and the income from the tax in question totaled NIS 10m. The tax abolishment talked about does not affect the 17 percent value added tax.

Moshe Leon, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, eliminating the duty on the computer imports to which it now applies will cost the government some NIS 15m. a year.

Teachers' strike settlement just beats the opening bell

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

It may have taken until just before school bells sounded yesterday morning, but the week-long school strike finally came to an end with a signing ceremony at the Treasury at about 6:30 a.m..

Both Treasury and teachers union officials appeared pleased with the agreement, which gave all the teachers a 1.9% real wage increase, and provides additional payment for principals and teachers performing administrative functions. The latter totals about NIS 320 gross per individual, according to Treasury wage director Yossi Kucik.

In addition, the agreement finally resolved the thorny matter of payments to faculty who accompany school trips. Teachers will now receive NIS 250 per day for trips requiring at least one overnight stay, NIS 400 the second year and NIS 500 the third year.

Payments for accompanying trips not requiring overnight stays will be on an hourly rate, based on the above rate.

The teachers also agreed not to raise any other wage demands until January 1, when a new contract has to be negotiated. Education Ministry officials said the teachers would have to make up the lost school days from their vacation days.

A bleary-eyed Avraham Ben-Shabbat of the Histadrut Teachers Union, Ran Erez of the Secondary School Teachers Association, and Kucik gathered at the Treasury for a press conference just a short time before school was due to start.

Ben-Shabbat told Israel Radio that the teachers' achievements were "vital ones that encompass all the nation's teachers," and that the teachers were "fully satisfied." He praised the Secondary School Teachers Association for working hand-in-hand with his union "with one goal in mind: to improve the lot of the teachers."

"If it had been left to us, we would have done everything without a strike, and just taken whatever we wanted. But we had the Treasury opposing us, and after clashing with them...we had no way out but to strike, which to me was a very serious matter. We must all learn from this, but not just us, also the Treasury," Ben-Shabbat said.

Kucik insisted in an interview that the deal reached with the teachers "was the same one we could have reached four days ago." He said he believed that the teachers had waited to see what the Histadrut had gotten before agreeing to sign themselves. Nonetheless, Kucik thanked the teachers "despite the serious tensions" that had existed between them.

"As everyone knows, we went through a week-long strike, a difficult, bitter one," he said. "We thought it was unnecessary, but at this happy moment, I suggest we speak not about the past, but about opening a new page, and the fact that we are moving forward and sending 1.5 million pupils and 130,000 teachers to school.

"We said all along that the government's policy was to maintain real wages," Kucik said.

"This is what guided us in our negotiations with the Histadrut, and how we behaved in these negotiations. Our claim wasn't a trick, it was a real claim and our insistence was because we had no other way. Real wage increases would have cost the economy dearly."

Israeli Arab leaders demand more funds

By DAVID HUDGE

Israeli Arab leaders are to meet with Education Minister Yitzhak Levy today to press for additional funds to bring their schools up to the standard of those in the Jewish sector.

A mass demonstration by pupils and teachers is to scheduled to take place in Jerusalem next Wednesday if Levy fails to respond positively.

Abed Inbitawi, spokesman for the monitoring committee of the Israeli Arab leadership, said a one-day strike had been planned at the beginning of the school year, but was deferred because of the teachers' strike.

The monitoring committee, composed of council heads, Arab MKs, and leading public figures, intends to take further action to disrupt the education system unless steps are taken to overcome the problems.

Inbitawi said thousands of Arab children are still studying in rented accommodation in houses, businesses, and other places, due to insufficient classroom space.

"There is a shortage of nearly 2,500 classrooms and 10 special education schools, as well as a dearth of other essentials, such as computers, proper laboratories, and equipment and, not least, about 400 teachers," he said.

He noted that the drop-out rate among Arab pupils is higher than that among Jews, while the number of pupils passing their matriculation exams is 10 percent lower than the national average.

"We still feel that Arab schoolchildren are being discriminated against in virtually all fields, despite some exceptions," said Inbitawi. "We are pressing the government to change its policy toward the Arab education system and to implement the recommendations of Arab experts to close the gaps between Arabs and Jews."



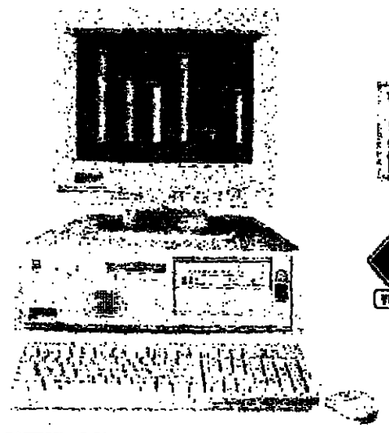
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NEWS

in brief

Another air force drone crashes

An unmanned aerial vehicle plummeted to earth yesterday morning near Mitzpeh Ramon in the Negev. Another IAF drone crashed last Friday in the Hebron Hills.

The IDF confirmed yesterday's crash, which it said occurred during a routine training flight. It said the air force is investigating.

The IAF is still trying to recover pieces of the reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft lost on Friday. Palestinians who turned over parts of the wreckage say they do not have any more. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Weizman to Ankara

President Ezer Weizman yesterday accepted an invitation to visit Ankara at the end of next month to attend the 75th anniversary celebrations of the establishment of the Turkish republic.

The invitation was extended by Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz when he breakfasted with Weizman at Beit Hanassi yesterday morning to wind up the Israeli part of his visit. After exchanging views on regional and bilateral affairs with Weizman, Yilmaz drove to Ramallah to meet Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Weizman's first state visit abroad as president was to Turkey, where he underscored the importance of that country's role in the Middle East. At the time, the visit gave a push to ties between Ankara and Jerusalem. *Batsheva Tsur*

Contractor, family indicted for building crimes

Kfar Shmaryahu contractor Emil Abramov, his wife Ruth, and son Erez, were charged yesterday in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court with aggravated fraud, suborning fraud, obstruction of justice, suborning perjury, theft, and forgery in connection with irregularities in the construction of their home. The charges also relate to Abramov's allegedly inflated damage claims following a 1992 explosion at the nearby TAAS-Israel Industries plant.

Charged with the Abramovs was Victor Messica, 51, of Herzliya, who was the city's chief building inspector during the time of the alleged crimes. He has been indicted for fraud, violating public trust, and accepting a bribe. *Itim*

$25 million gift for Rabin Medical Center

The first stage of the Shasha hospitalization tower project at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus was dedicated yesterday in a ceremony attended by hundreds of guests, including President Ezer Weizman and his wife Reuma, and Leah Rabin.

The project was made possible with a donation of $25 million by Gour Shasha, who said the facility brought to fruition his dream of making a significant contribution to the Israeli public.

The hospitalization towers are comprised of two modern, nine-storey buildings and a high-tech elevator section to connect them. During the next few weeks, the cardiothoracic surgery, transplant, internal medicine and surgical departments will move into them. *Judy Siegel*

Turkish PM: Syria encourages Kurdish terror

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH, MOHAMMED NAJIB and news agencies

In an escalating war of words, Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz yesterday accused Syria of hostile intentions, saying it supports terrorism by Kurdish separatists in his country.

His remarks came in response to claims in state-run Syrian newspapers that Turkey's military alliance with Israel is bringing more tensions to the Middle East.

In Damascus, an editorial in the government daily *Tishrin* yesterday urged Turkey to improve its relations with the Arabs and with fellow Moslem states instead of "throwing itself into Israel's arms [which] would bring it nothing but troubles." The paper added that the Israeli-Turkish alliance "does not intend to spread peace and stability in the region but rather aims at creating tension and plunging the region into a cycle of endless violence." The government daily *Al-Baath* added that "the suspicious Turkish-Israeli strategic alliance threatens... Arab security in general and Syria's in particular."

Asked about the Syrian comments, Yilmaz said in halting English: "Anyone who speaks [about] hostility in the region with hostile attitudes should focus on the policies of the Syrian government that encourages separatist terrorism in the region."

Yilmaz, who made the remarks after a meeting with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, did not elaborate. In the past, Turkey has accused Syria, as well as Iraq, Greece, and Armenia, of supporting Kurdish separatists.

Yilmaz stressed that his country supports the PA position, and said Israel should accept the US proposals as the Palestinian side did.

"We will support every step of the peace process and hope the sides achieve their goals," he said. "The sides should take constructive steps to rescue the peace process from its current deadlock, constructive steps must be taken by all sides, but the road before us is still a long one."

Yilmaz announced that Turkey will give the Palestinians documents from the Ottoman-era archives to help Palestinians prove ownership of land in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Israel, Israel Radio reported.

He said Turkey and the PA signed cooperation agreements in the fields of culture, education and the environment. He added that he had invited Palestinian officials to Turkey to discuss loans to the PA.

Meeting later with reporters, Arafat called the meeting friendly, constructive and useful.

"We discussed the current deadlock in the peace negotiations because of Israel's refusal to accept the US proposals," he said, adding that the PA had accepted them several months ago.

Arafat confirmed that Yilmaz had agreed to transfer documents from his country's archives that listed Palestinian properties in Jerusalem registered during the Ottoman period to the PA.



One in a million

Yael Mizrahi holds her four healthy boys, born yesterday at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, as her husband Yehezkel looks on. The odds of having quads without fertility treatment, as in this case, are said to be one in a million. The couple has three other children.

(Text: Judy Siegel; photo: Dan Schaffner)

Intelligence: Iran can complete Shihab 3 even if Russia stops aid

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Even if the Russians stop providing Teheran with missile technology, the Iranians could still complete the Shihab 3 ballistic missile capable of striking Israel, a senior intelligence officer said yesterday.

Briefing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the officer said there was no evidence Russia was halting its aid to Iran's program to build the 1,300-kilometer range Shihab 3 missile.

The officer said that even after the summit between US President Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin there was still no change in Russia's aid to Iran.

"If there had been [a change], at the present stage it wouldn't prevent the completion of the [Shihab 3] project," the officer was quoted as saying by a MK who took part in the meeting.

The officer added that a halt in Russian aid now would at best damage future Iranian projects such as the long-range Shihab 4, which has a range of 2,000 kilometers.

The officer's assessment marks the first time the intelligence community has said the Iranians will be able to complete the Shihab 3 project even without further Russian help.

In late July, a senior intelligence officer said that if Moscow stopped the flow of Russian technology to Iran's missile program, the Iranians would have continued to build the Shihab 3 but it would not perform as planned.

Iran carried out its first test firing of the Shihab 3 in July, and it was detonated after it flew for 100 seconds.

Barak bids for backing from Right and center

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

In what appeared to be the opening shot of Labor's election campaign, party leader Ehud Barak yesterday urged prominent coalition and breakaway figures, as well as moderate religious leaders, to join him in his efforts to topple the government.

"I call upon [Gesher leader] David Levy, [Defense Minister] Yitzhak Mordechai, [Internal Security Minister Avigdor] Kahalani, [Industry and Trade Minister Natan] Sharansky, [Tourism Minister Moshe] Katsav, Dan Meridor and Meir Shetreet, Rabbis Yoel Bin-Nun and [Menachem] Froman... I know you as responsible people who have contributed much to the state," he said. "You all see the deterioration."

"I urge you to rise from your armchairs and lend a hand to changing the government," Barak said.

Barak came to present his plan for "a better Israel" at a New Year's toast with activists in Ramat Efal.

Hundreds of supporters crowded into the auditorium and received Barak with prolonged enthusiastic applause when he arrived.

Barak joined singer Margalit Tsanani on stage to sing a part of "My Yiddishe Mama," which the band accompanied to an oriental rhythm.

The plan consists of a new social pact which will regulate the relations between religious and secular people, stop the government's surrender to haredi extortion and prevent the "social Darwinism of Thatcher, Reagan and Milton Friedman" to which, it says, the present government adheres.

Barak said education is at the top of his priorities and that his plan ensures free education from the age of three or four to university studies.

Other aspects concern the IDF's injunction of yeshiva students "as required," complete equality for women and Arabs, integrating new immigrants into all facets of life and advancing the peace process.

Desalination urged to avert water shortfall

By DAVID RUDGE

There is likely to be a serious shortfall between water demand and supply by the new millenium, Mekorot chairman Doron Gruper said yesterday.

Water use has increased by seven percent from 1991 to 1997 and the trend is expected to continue, Gruper told a seminar at Tel Aviv University.

The biggest representative increase was in domestic use, apparently because of the growth in population and higher living standards, although demand in the agricultural field also rose.

He said that the gap between demand and supply by the year 2,000 was expected to reach between 610-680 million cubic meters, rising to between 771-1,227 million cubic meters by the year 2010, and as much as 3,000 million cubic meters by the year 2040.

Gruper said that the best solution to cover the expected shortfall was to establish desalination plants that would be able to convert sea water and briny water from saline wells into drinking water.

Mekorot, he said, was prepared for planning the establishment of such desalination plants. He predicted this work could be carried out in the space of two or three years.

Until now, such solutions to the country's future water problems have been pushed aside because water produced in this manner would be so expensive as to make farming economically unviable.

Gruper said that economic feasibility studies indicate that desalination would be cheaper than alternatives, including importing fresh water, and it would ensure continued supplies.

Any delay in making a decision on the desalination issue would only cause water supply problems in the future, said Gruper.

Kleiner suspends activity in Gesher, forms new movement

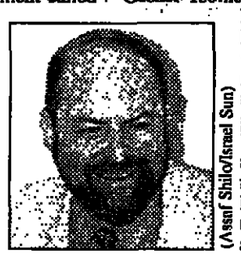
By MICHAL YUDELMAN

MK Michael Kleiner yesterday announced he is suspending his activity in Gesher and forming a new ideological movement called the Eretz Yisrael Front, which will fight against a pullback from the territories.

Speaking at a press conference in Tel Aviv, Kleiner said he would support early elections if the cabinet decides on a pullback.

He said he decided to suspend his activity in Gesher because of Gesher leader David Levy's talks of a possible political alliance with people like Labor Party leader Ehud Barak, MK Dan Meridor (Likud), and Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo.

"The last straw was Milo's pathetic attempt to climb on Levy's back. Milo represents all that's bad, corrupt, and opportunistic in politics. With all due respect to Levy, my duty is to the eternal existence of the Jewish state in Eretz Yisrael. The withdrawal proposed by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will endanger the Jewish state. Preventing this withdrawal is above any partisan or personal consideration," Kleiner said.



(Assaf Shilo/Israel Sun)

Michael Kleiner

Kleiner said he has no intention of leaving the Knesset and would continue his parliamentary activity as a member of the Likud-Gesher-Tsomet faction.

Kleiner criticized Levy, stating he was once one of the right-wing ministers who had urged prime minister Yitzhak Shamir against making territorial concessions. Levy had contributed more than anyone to the construction in Hebron and the territories, Kleiner said.

Kleiner criticized Netanyahu for compromising with the Palestinians.

"A leader should strengthen and unite the nation in a period of trial. But Netanyahu has already renounced everything which can be renounced, including that which cannot and must not be renounced. Because of the prime minister's weakness and the Likud's ideological bankruptcy, I am forming the new movement to prevent the pullback, strengthen the settlements, encourage Jews to have more children, and give the parliamentary Land of Israel Front a broader backing," he said.

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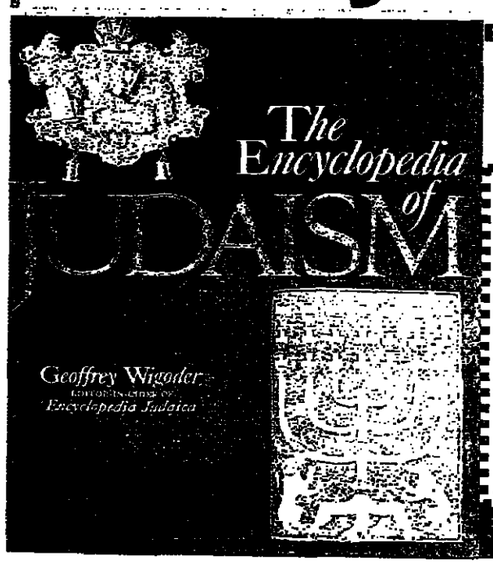
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صكذا من الاصل

Patients filmed during examinations

Inquiry begins into hidden camera at Ichilov Hospital

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Health Ministry yesterday asked the police to open an investigation of reports by *Yediot Aharonot* that someone had changed the position of the video camera in an Ichilov Hospital ultrasound room to peep at partially clothed patients instead of catching thieves.

The story, by the paper's Tel Aviv municipal reporter, Yoav Karni, was accompanied by a fuzzy photo of a woman with bare legs undergoing an ultrasound scan in the room. It promised that details would appear on Friday.

The Jerusalem Post has learned that the ministry has never issued any directives on the placing of video cameras in medical facilities for patient security and the prevention of equipment thefts. This, despite the fact that it is responsible for enforcing the *Patients'* Rights Law, which ensures patients' privacy. Ichilov's management had not set down such rules either, leaving the matter to the hospital's chief security officer.

The Hadassah Medical Organization, however, does have *standing rules on the use of such* cameras, and allows their installation at exits to prevent thefts. But they are never allowed in rooms where patients are being examined or treated, an HMO spokeswoman said.

Kupat Holim Clalit management said it does not disclose details of its security measures, but added that everything is done "to protect patient privacy."

Asked why the ministry, which regularly issues directives to all public hospitals, has neglected the matter of video cameras, its deputy director-general for information Yair Amikam said: "We didn't think of it, but now, we know it can be a problem, and rules will be formulated and issued to all institutions."

Ichilov spokeswoman Aviva Shemer said yesterday that the incident was "very serious," and that the hospital had asked the ministry to arrange for a police investigation. She noted that the hospital, located in the city center, with frequent cases of drunks and drug addicts coming for treatment, suffers from thievery and vandalism.

The hospital's chief security officer, Ram Berla'i, decided to install a video camera in the ultrasound room after two incidents of electronic equipment being stolen. But the lens was attached from the ceiling focussing on the ultrasound equipment, not on the bed where the patient is examined, Shemer said.

Someone had either gone into the room and changed the lens angle, or moved the bed and machine. Security personnel do not look at the monitor in the control room constantly, but review a tape only when notified something has been stolen, to identify the thief.

Berla'i, a married man in his 40s who has worked at the hospital for three years, is known among hospital staffers to have some enemies because he has had to fire incompetent personnel. This has raised the suspicion that someone changed the angle of the camera and informed *Yediot* to get Berla'i in trouble.

Shemer said, however, that it was "a mistake" for Berla'i to put the camera in an examining room "without informing management."

Police raid 'chop shops' nationwide

By AMY KLEIN

Police confiscated hundreds of car parts from 80 garages around the country yesterday and arrested more than 40 suspects in a national police operation against garage owners dealing in stolen parts, said Israel Police spokesman Elihu Ben-Onn.

Over 1,100 policemen raided garages, storage centers, and car part distributors in major cities in Operation Root Canal.

The operation, which began yesterday and will continue today, was the second stage of recent police efforts against the car theft industry.

Police staged similar raids in Areas B in the territories last March, arresting 56 suspects, recovering 46 vehicles and hundreds of spare parts and closing down dozens of chop shops.

The operation in the territories was against suppliers of stolen parts, while yesterday's operation was against garage owners who buy them, Ben-Onn said.

Garage owners systematically order spare parts from the suppliers, who pay youngsters to steal the cars, he said. The suppliers then take the cars to chop shops and sell the parts – with false serial numbers and documentation – to the garage owners.

Police hope that by cutting down on the demand for stolen parts, they can reduce the number of car thefts.

Police worked with tax officials, who also confiscated dozens of falsified books from garages during the operation.

Ben–Onn said all the stolen spare parts will be taken to a police garage in Tel Aviv and returned to their rightful owners if possible.

Since the start of the decade, car thefts have increased at a 10%-25% rate annually, totalling 45,273 last year, according to police statistics.

Car thefts are on the rise again this year, with an average of 3,792 thefts a month, up from 3,772 monthly during the same period last year.



Policemen confiscate a suspected stolen engine at a garage in Jerusalem's Talpiot neighborhood yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

Slaying of Ramle evacuee raises fears of more clan violence

Ahmed Abu Laben, 19, who was murdered yesterday in Jaffa, was well known to residents of the Juarish neighborhood of Ramle and to police in the Coastal Plain.

According to police, Abu Laben had a long criminal record. He was a member of the Karaja clan, which a month ago was evacuated from Juarish as part of a separation of forces with their rivals, the Jarushi clan.

Abu Laben was killed on Rehov Shivtei Yisrael by shots fired by a motorcyclist. He had recently left Juarish as part of the separation agreement. In a bid to calm the tension in the area, Minister of Internal Security Avigdor Kahalani personally intervened in support of the arrangement.

Following the agreement, the Karajas, who are the smaller clan, were evacuated from the neighborhood and got sizeable financial compensation for their houses. The homes were demolished.

Clan members hoped to be absorbed in Hadera and other northern locales, but thus proved impossible because the local residents refused to receive them.

Abu Laben moved to Jaffa, where his fiancee lived.

A month ago, Abu Laben's brother was slain in the Ramle Casbah, in a manner similar to the way he was killed yesterday. Police believe that during the Casbah shooting, the assailants also tried to kill Ahmed Abu Laben.

Violence between the two clans has claimed the lives of 24 people. There are concerns in Ramle that the killings of the Abu Laben brothers will touch off a fresh wave of bloodletting in the area. (Itim)

Breeders blamed in poisoning of animals

By DAVID RUDGE

The independent committee set up by Agriculture and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan to examine the mass poisoning of Griffin vultures and other wild animals on the Golan Heights submitted its report yesterday.

Nearly 30 vultures – as well as seven jackals, three wild boar and a number of cats – died in the incident two months ago.

The committee, headed by Dr. Yossi Leshem, determined that the deaths had apparently been caused when cattle breeders placed a calf and chickens laced with poison as bait in order to kill wolves which had been preying on their herds.

The committee said the perpetrators had to be caught and punished as a deterrent to others.

It said another such incident would decimate the vulture population, which has already been dwindling in recent years, and seriously harm others which visited from different parts of the Middle East.

The report found serious defects in coordination between the various bodies responsible for preventing wild animals from preying on cattle and sheep.

The report called for an additional NIS 2.5 million to be set aside to study the movement of wolves and for the establishment of a central body to ensure that wild and domesticated animals can live alongside one another on the Golan and in other parts of the country.

The findings and recommendations are to be discussed at a seminar next month.

Austria prepares restitution of Nazi art loot

VIENNA (Reuters) – Hundreds of art works seized by the Nazis during World War II and later incorporated into Austrian museums could soon be returned to their owners, an official said yesterday.

A draft law on the restitution of suspected objects of art will be submitted to the government tomorrow for discussion.

"By the end of October we hope parliament will have approved the law, which would enable the return of works of art that should be restituted," government spokeswoman Heidi Glueck said.

Austria, which was annexed by Hitler in 1938, launched an investigation into its state collections after two paintings on loan to the Museum of Modern Art in New York from the Leopold Foundation, were confiscated by US authorities in January.

The two canvases by expressionist Egon Schiele, worth about 70 million schillings ($5.57 million) together, were claimed by the heirs of victims of the Nazis.

The claims were rejected by a New York judge in May, but the controversy prompted Austria to take a critical look at the acquisition of its museum exhibits and archives.

"These are not only paintings but coins, weapons, furniture and glasses," said Glueck.

Preliminary findings show that hundreds of objects now owned by the Austrian state were confiscated by the Nazi regime and not returned to their former – mainly Jewish – owners after the war, she said.

"Before anything can be returned the claimant has to prove that he or she is the legal heir of the rightful owner," Glueck said.

A full report on suspected art acquisitions is due within two months.

Commission finishes work on returning Nazi gold

PARIS (Reuters) – The Tripartite Gold Commission, set up after World War II to return gold plundered by the Nazis, will wind up over five decades of work today with some controversial questions still begging for an answer.

The panel run by the US, Britain, and France has finished dividing up the 336.5 metric tons of gold recovered after the war among the 11 countries whose national banks were emptied when German troops marched in.

But the commission has not been able to determine how much of that gold was actually stolen from private individuals, especially from Jewish victims of the Holocaust, diplomats said.

How much gold Soviet troops spirited off to Moscow after they conquered Berlin also remains a mystery, they said.

Countries occupied by the Germans told the commission that a total of 514 tons of gold had been looted by the Nazis during the war.

The World Jewish Congress said declassified US documents proved the commission pooled 50 to 60 tons of gold plundered from private individuals along with the bullion stolen from central banks.

Compensating only the central banks was unfair, the WJC argued, but Jewish groups could not finalize compensation claims until they knew exactly how much non-monetary gold was involved.

British officials disputed the WJC claim at the London conference, saying the amount of private gold was much smaller.

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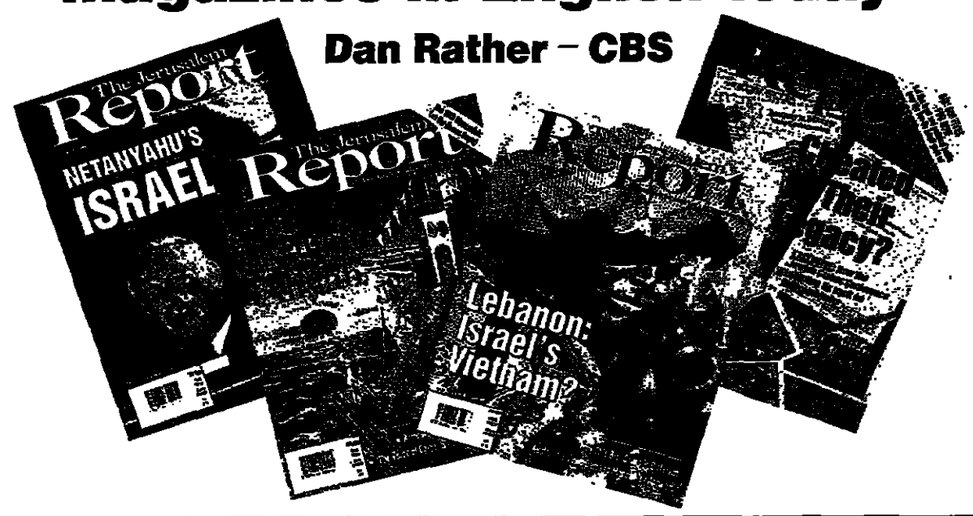
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No more Mr. Monotone

Campaigning for the 2000 Democratic presidential nomination is a newer, smoother Al Gore

By PATRICK J. SLOYAN

HAZELWOOD, Pa. – The issue was cross-training.

"We're not talking about a fancy pair of sneakers," Al Gore said with a grin.

Workers, Gore explained, learn different jobs so they are not stuck in one position on an assembly line doing the same thing, hour after hour.

"Before, you were a little bit like a robot," the vice president told a group of union workers last week.

Then, after just the right pause, Gore pointed his finger at himself. "I've been accused of being a robot."

The burst of laughter from the steelworkers was better than applause for Gore. He has found it is oddly awkward to be the front-runner for the 2000 Democratic presidential nomination as well as the constitutional stand-in for Bill Clinton if something removes him from power.

On the campaign trail, it is a new, smoother Al Gore, swaying his shoulders for emphasis, spinning his fingers to emphasize changes in Washington and opening his arms as if to embrace his listeners. Gone is the wooden stance and monotone that once lulled voters into a stupor.

Gore is determined to avoid talking about the issues that have obsessed Democratic Party leaders.

"He is not going to say anything about Monica Lewinsky," said Larry Haas, Gore's press secretary. "He's not going to say anything about Janet Reno."

It could be a painful silence. Gore has inherited Clinton's political mantle just as it is being checked for DNA samples. And Gore's own record is being dusted for fingerprints by the Justice Department.

CLINTON'S regret over his affair with Lewinsky was Topic A in the Pittsburgh area, where Gore campaigned on behalf of Rep. Frank Mascara and other Democrats seeking re-election November 3.

"The right-wing radio talk shows are driving this thing," said Jamie Rooney, a Democratic operative here.

Callers to Mascara's district office have been divided 50-50.

"About half say Clinton should be impeached or resign," said Stephanie Kang, who works for Mascara.

It is much the same in other congressional offices, including Republican Sen. Arlen Specter's western Pennsylvania office.

The other 50 percent are somewhere between dismayed, disgusted and disenchanted, defending the president with the backs of their hands.

Ally Gorman, 41, of Pittsburgh, who met Clinton in 1996, never believed his earlier denials about Lewinsky.

"I always knew he was lying," Gorman said. "But what about Lewinsky? Why did she keep that dress?"

Gorman voted twice for the Clinton-Gore ticket but merely shrugged when asked about voting for Gore in 2000.

Far fewer voters are aware of Gore's own problems with the Justice Department.

Attorney General Reno has taken steps that could lead to an independent counsel looking into Gore's fund-raising efforts in 1996.

Craig Hughes, a Gore political adviser, tried to explain the probe to Bob O'Connor, chairman of the Pittsburgh City Council and one of the party stalwarts Gore is counting on in 2000.

"It's nothing," Hughes said. But he conceded it involved Gore allegedly making false statements to the FBI.

Where voters, particularly voters in the Democratic primaries, finally come down on the Clinton scandal may have a lasting impact on presidential candidates two years from now.

Already distancing himself from Clinton is House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt, who is likely to challenge Gore in 2000.

Terming Clinton's actions "reprehensible," Gephardt wants a House impeachment inquiry to go over independent counsel Kenneth W. Starr's final report.

Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut has condemned what he called the president's immorality and hypocrisy.

"It has compromised his moral authority at a time when Americans of every political persuasion agree that the decline of the family is one of the most pressing problems we are facing," Lieberman said last Thursday on the Senate floor.

That was the same day Gore was stumping in Pittsburgh, and reporters yelled at the vice president for his reaction. Gore ignored the reporters.

"Stop shouting those questions," ordered Haas.

RIGHT now, Gore has positioned himself at Clinton's side.

"I am proud of him," Gore said after Clinton's nationwide address last month. "He is a person who has had the courage to acknowledge mistakes."

Aides say Gore will remain that close through the looming storm over Starr's report and Republican-controlled investigations in the House and Senate. While the president will be bruised, they say, Gore remains convinced Clinton will serve out his term as an effective chief executive.

Gore's 1988 campaign for the presidency was proof he would have trouble making it to the White House on his own. Clinton not only plucked him out of the Senate but has shared the national limelight with him at almost every landmark White House event.

Gore views the White House record as the key to his political future. The only time he invoked Clinton's name in Pittsburgh was to recount the balanced budget agreement with Congress that he said has fueled a thriving economy, almost full employment, low inflation and a federal budget surplus.

"We all want the best for the United States," Gore said. "President Clinton and I know in our hearts that our policies meet that test." (Newsday)



Once known for his wooden stance, Al Gore can now be seen swaying his shoulders and spinning his fingers for emphasis, and opening his arms as if to embrace his listeners. (Isaac Harari)

Gore's woes energize Republican presidential hopefuls

BY EDWARD WALSH

INDIANAPOLIS – At a House subcommittee hearing here the other day, Rep. Mark Edward Souder, R-Ind., complained that Vice President Al Gore, or "Mr. Technowhiz," as he called him, is not providing leadership in resolving the year 2000 computer reprogramming problem.

"Unfortunately," replied the hearing's opening witness, million-aire publisher Malcolm S. Forbes, "he's sweating on other things."

The audience laughed knowingly. For Forbes and other potential Republican presidential contenders in 2000, the fact that Gore is "sweating on other things" – be it the evolving fallout from the Monica Lewinsky scandal or a preliminary campaign finance investigation – is far from unfortunate. Suddenly, Gore, still the clear favorite to win the Democratic nomination, seems less formidable than he did a few months ago.

"This, of course, can all change, but I do think there is a sense out there that Republicans are going to reap big benefits from this and if the Republicans nominate a good candidate, we're going to be in the White House," said GOP consultant Greg Stevens.

While many GOP leaders in Congress have been cautious in discussing whether Clinton should resign or be impeached because of the Lewinsky scandal, many of the party's potential presidential nominees have shown no such restraint.

Missouri Sen. John D. Ashcroft, who is trying to build a base among social conservatives, has been perhaps the most aggressive.

"I think we've seen the effective end of the Clinton presidency," Ashcroft said in calling for the president's resignation immediately following Clinton's August 17 admission of a sexual relationship with Lewinsky.

Former vice president Dan Quayle, former Tennessee governor Lamar Alexander and Gary Bauer, head of the Family Research Council, have joined Ashcroft in calling for Clinton, in Bauer's words, to "spare us the ordeal of a crippled and crippling presidency by resigning."

They have done so even though it is conventional wisdom among GOP operatives that the party's chances of capturing the White House in 2000 are better with a wounded Clinton in office than with an incumbent President Gore.

"When they call for his resignation, they probably assume that he won't," Stevens observed.

Forbes has stopped short of calling for Clinton's resignation but made clear in an interview that he believes a congressional inquiry "will end up having him leave office."

"I'm not calling for his resignation now, even though I think there's been a real pattern of abuse," Forbes said. "But what I want is for the American people to have an opportunity, like in the early days of Watergate, where you have hearings so people can see for themselves that, yes, something is wrong here."

Forbes is also among the potential GOP candidates who see the Lewinsky matter as pushing character questions to the forefront of presidential politics.

"People are going to ask the question: Will this person bring dignity or will this person embarrass?" Texas Governor George W. Bush said.

"We are now finding that it is more than the economy," chimed in Quayle. "It is also character and leadership, trustworthiness, integrity.... We are now seeing that character does matter."

Republican strategists are mulling over how the Lewinsky scandal might affect politics.

"You talk about character, you talk about what all this means to our children," said Stevens.

"We shouldn't have to turn off the nightly news, we shouldn't be in a posture of not talking to our children about what the president is doing. I think that's what Republicans ought to talk about." (The Washington Post)

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Yeltsin may pick new PM candidate

News agencies

MOSCOW – President Boris Yeltsin hesitated yesterday over ramming through his unpopular choice for prime minister, while opposition and religious leaders warned that the political standoff could spark civil war.

The nation's top clergyman expressed fear of unrest, praying publicly before Russia's holiest icon for divine protection against "misfortunes, sorrows, and internecine war." Officials told Russians to stop panic buying of food, saying state reserves hold more than enough stocks to ride out the current economic and political crisis.

"There are no problems, these reserves are more than enough to secure the needs of the country," Igor Shabdurasulov, acting head of the government administration, told a news briefing yesterday. His comments came against a rising sense of panic as the ruble continues to slide and prices soar.

Yeltsin meanwhile conferred with top aides at his country residence amid growing speculation he may choose a compromise candidate to stave off a showdown with the Communist-dominated lower house of parliament, the State Duma.

Up to now, he had insisted that Acting Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was his only choice, but the Duma on Monday rejected Chernomyrdin a second time. Yeltsin, who is known for trampling over his political opponents, has compromised before in the face of popular anger.

The president has one more chance to win parliamentary approval for his prime ministerial pick. If the Duma refuses to confirm the candidate, Yeltsin must dissolve the legislature and call parliamentary elections within three months.

Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov said yesterday that if Yeltsin continues to demand approval of Chernomyrdin, Russia's crisis would deepen.

"A mistake for the president and his team can cost the country's civic peace. This is a very high price," Zyuganov said.

The possibility that economic and political crisis could spill over into violence – though there have been no signs of unrest up to now – was also shared by others.

Alexy II, the patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, prayed for peace before a revered icon, Our Lady of Vladimir, in a central Moscow museum.

"Civil war is the most terrible thing that the current political crisis could bring Russia, because blood always divides," Alexy said. "We believe that the Lord will protect our land from misfortunes, sorrows and internecine war."

Presidential spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky said that Yeltsin is unlikely to name his candidate for prime minister before today. There was rampant speculation in the Duma corridors that the president was trying to find a way out of a confrontation that could end in the legislature's dissolution.

Duma Deputy Yelena Mizulina, one of the initiators of a campaign to impeach Yeltsin, said yesterday the Duma would put impeachment on its agenda if the president named Chernomyrdin a third time. If the Duma votes for impeachment proceedings, the Constitution bars Yeltsin from dissolving the body.

Yeltsin's office has not named any other potential candidates for the prime minister's job. The two names that have prompted the greatest speculation among lawmakers were Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov and acting Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov.

In a statement circulated yesterday by the Foreign Ministry, Primakov said he would not agree to take the prime minister's post, though he would be willing to continue serving in the cabinet.

Luzhkov, too, coyly denied he'd been negotiating for the top government post. Noting that he was already "prime minister of the Moscow government," Luzhkov asked "Is that so little?" the Interfax news agency said.



Russian women count their money yesterday at a Moscow wholesale market, while the government tried to discourage panic food buying. (Reuters)

NEWS *in brief*

Congo summit fails

VICTORIA FALLS, Zimbabwe (Reuters) – Southern African leaders failed yesterday to secure a cease-fire in Laurent Kabila's Congo and Tutsi-led rebels vowed to intensify their struggle.

A seven-nation summit convened in Victoria Falls by President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe ended with a new commitment to the search for a cease-fire in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but without any timetable for ending the conflict which now involves six nations in the region.

A rebel delegation headed by Arthur Z'Ahidi Ngoma, deputy president of the Congolese Democratic Coalition, left the summit venue without a face-to-face meeting with Kabila and his allies, Mugabe, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola, and President Sam Nujoma of Namibia.

"We are going back home now to do one thing only, to intensify our campaign against Kabila," Ngoma told Reuters.

At least 50 die, 30 hurt in Brazil road accident

SAO PAULO (Reuters) – Two busloads of religious pilgrims and a diesel truck crashed in a fiery highway accident in southeastern Brazil yesterday, killing at least 50 people and leaving 30 others injured, authorities said.

Witnesses said police believed the driver of the truck, which was carrying diesel fuel to Sao Paulo, fell asleep and ran off the highway. The truck exploded and billowing clouds of smoke forced the other vehicles off the road, witnesses said.

A police officer from the town of Araras near the site of the accident put the number of dead at 53. Rescue workers at the scene said most of the bodies had been burned beyond recognition.

The buses were carrying 98 Catholic worshipers who were returning to Anapolis in the central Goias state from the Basilica of Our Lady of Aparecida, a shrine to Brazil's patron saint in the interior of Sao Paulo state. The disaster was the second in three days involving religious worshippers in Brazil. On Saturday, 24 people were killed and nearly 500 injured when a roof caved in on an evangelical church on the outskirts of Sao Paulo.

Crucial data missing on Swissair flight recorder

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia (AP) – Divers have retrieved Swissair Flight 111's flight-data recorder, but experts say the "black box" contains no information from the final minutes of the doomed flight.

Crash investigators had high hopes after the data recorder was recovered from the ocean floor on Sunday. But laboratory examinations on Monday revealed that there was no data from at least the last six minutes before the plane plunged into the ocean off Nova Scotia last week, killing all 229 people aboard.

Malaysian PM: Ousted deputy flirting with arrest

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) – Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad yesterday attacked his ousted deputy as immoral and accused him of courting arrest to become a political martyr. Anwar Ibrahim, Mahathir's former protege, was stripped of his posts of deputy and finance minister last Wednesday on allegations ranging from sexual misconduct to leaking state secrets. Anwar has denied the charges, saying they were crafted by the government to undermine his reform challenge to Mahathir's 17-year rule. The two have also clashed on economic policy.

DNA extracted from extinct tortoises

CARDIFF (Reuters) – Scientists said yesterday they had for the first time extracted DNA from an extinct group of animals – giant land tortoises which lived hundreds of years ago on islands in the Indian Ocean. The genetic material came from bones which are all that remain of four species of tortoise which lived on the Mascarene Islands, Dr. Jeremy Austin of Britain's Natural History Museum told a news conference. "We've been using DNA to understand evolution," he told the annual British Association science festival.

Number of Japanese centenarians tops 10,000

TOKYO (AP) – Japan, home to the world's longest-living population and one of the world's lowest fertility rates, now has more than 10,000 centenarians, the government said yesterday.

There will be 10,158 Japanese 100 years or older at the end of September – 1,667 more than a year ago, the Health and Welfare Ministry said. Of those who have lived a century, 82.2 percent are women. Japan's oldest citizen, 114-year-old Tase Matsunaga, is in a nursing home in Tokyo.

Vicar jailed for overcharging for weddings

NEWPORT, England (AP) – A vicar was ordered jailed for nine months yesterday after admitting he overcharged parishioners for funerals and weddings – including levying a fee to bury stillborn babies when the church normally provides such services free.

Rev. Roy Hibbert, 68, who admitted 11 counts of false accounting, was arrested after members of his congregations in several communities in the southwest England area of Shropshire complained they were being overcharged for weddings.

Finland shocked as doctors linked to Nazism

By ADAM JASSER

HELSINKI (Reuters) – Finland confronted a ghost from the past yesterday over revelations that Nazi ideas on race and eugenics had a strong following among Finnish doctors in the 1940s.

A documentary broadcast on Finland's state television on Monday alleged that some prominent Finnish doctors had been so enthusiastic about Nazi "research" that they wanted to form a department of "racial hygiene" at Helsinki University.

The program's author, Olli Ainola, said more radical members of the group publicly advocated elimination of up to half a million "racially inferior" Finns.

"They were serious people in such positions of authority that they could have done some really horrible things," Ainola said. "They were quite enthusiastic about it."

Finland and Germany fought together against the Soviet Union during World War II, and although the Finnish government at the time never espoused Nazi ideology, ties between professional elites in the two countries were close.

Many Finnish doctors studied in Germany, and Nazi ideology found fertile soil in their minds with claims that Germans and Nordic peoples were the "superhuman" race that needed protection from the inferior genes.

The defeat of Nazism brought an abrupt end to race research based on such ideas, but some Finnish doctors involved remained active and wielded influence on the official health policies after the war, Ainola said.

Some played a part in Finland's semi-official program, active until 1970, of forcibly sterilizing thousands of women, Ainola said.

University of Helsinki researchers said earlier this year that many of the sterilizations were carried out for eugenic reasons, mostly on mentally ill women.

Ainola's program also alleged that mentally ill patients, including veterans scarred by horrors of the war, were maltreated during and after the war.

But Finns were particularly disturbed to hear that Ainola found documents linking late Arvo Ylppo, a pediatrician and national hero credited with making Finland's child healthcare the envy of the world, to the eugenics school.

Ainola says he will reveal details of Ylppo's involvement with the "race scientists" in the second half of his documentary next Monday, but the first part already left Finland in shock.

"I'm shocked and I'm certain this should be investigated because of the seriousness of the allegations," said Social Affairs Minister Sinikka Monkare, herself a doctor.

IRA dissidents declare 'complete' cease-fire; don't apologize for Omagh

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK

DUBLIN (AP) – Irish Republican Army dissidents responsible for Northern Ireland's worst-ever terrorist atrocity called a "complete" cease-fire yesterday, but didn't apologize for their actions.

In a statement issued to the Irish state broadcasters RTE, the so-called Real IRA said it had decided on a "complete cessation of all military activity." Last month, the splinter group had declared a "suspension" of what it called its "military operations," a step short of a formal cease-fire.

The Real IRA, which had previously rejected the Irish Republican Army's July 1997 cease-fire, has admitted responsibility for the August 15 car bombing that killed 29 people and wounded 330 in the Northern Ireland town of Omagh.

Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble, who heads the new Northern Ireland Assembly, welcomed the cease-fire announcement, but said it did not diminish the tragedy of the Omagh bombing.

"I am glad that these people have come to their senses and realized the futility of their actions," he said. "That doesn't change the enormity of what they have done and their culpability for it."

British Prime Minister Tony Blair also said the statement was welcome, but vowed that authorities would "continue to pursue those responsible for the Omagh bomb, those who organized it, those carried it out."

Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern called it "both an important and a positive development," but added, "It will not, unfortunately, bring the dead of Omagh back to life, heal the injured ,or comfort their families."

The British government's Northern Ireland Office issued its own statement emphasizing that "the Real IRA needs not just to talk, but to convince the Irish people that their violence is at an end for good."

The Real IRA's announcement came hours after Northern Ireland's major British Protestant party, the Ulster Unionist party, ended its ban on direct communication with the IRA-allied Sinn Fein party, another symbolic step down the road to reconciliation.

At a two-hour meeting Monday at Stormont Parliamentary Building in Belfast, the venue for a new cross-community government outlined in April's peace accord, Trimble discussed the establishment of a multi-party administration with seven other party leaders, including Sinn Fein chief Gerry Adams.

Trimble had sat through eight months of negotiations opposite Adams without saying a direct word to him, citing the IRA's refusal to start disarming as proof it had really renounced violence. The April agreement commits Sinn Fein to secure the IRA's disarmament by mid-2000.

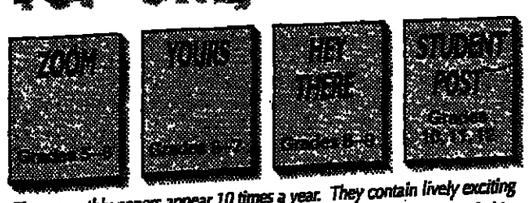
The Real IRA's statement brought the group into line with the mainstream IRA and several other paramilitary groups: the IRA's main anti-British rival, the Irish National Liberation Army, which called its own truce on August 22, and the Ulster Defense Association and Ulster Volunteer Force which called a joint cease-fire in 1994.

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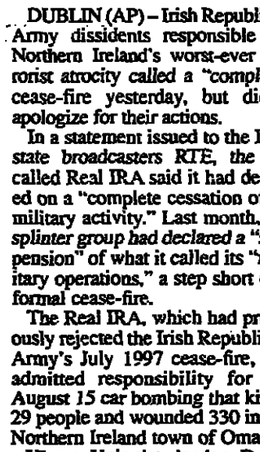
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Flirting with disaster

The US government is drawing fire from critics who contend that generous federal flood insurance encourages building in exposed locations, and that taxpayers are bearing the brunt of no-strings-attached relief

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR

Next time the television news is full of flustered vacationers and coastal residents fleeing another massive hurricane, just imagine if this caption were to scroll across the bottom of the screen: "This disaster is brought to you in part by government policies."

In the last two decades, about 40 percent of federal flood insurance payments have gone to a tiny fraction of chronically flood-prone properties in places such as the Gulf Coast states (menaced last week by Hurricane Earl) and North Carolina's Outer Banks (damaged in late August by Hurricane Bonnie).

Now the government is under pressure from critics who contend that flood insurance encourages foolhardy people to build in exposed locations and that no-strings-attached relief has grown too costly.

Critics say federal generosity helps perpetuate a cycle of natural destruction and subsidized reconstruction. The government becomes an unwitting accomplice to risk-taking that only ends up costing taxpayers money.

" 'Facilitator' is an excellent term," said Orrin Pilkey, a coastal geologist at Duke University. The "major villain" in the hurricane-prone parts of the country, he added, is a boundless human passion for the seashore. "People are in heat to live near the water."

Looking to staunch the flow of disaster dollars, federal officials are considering limits on what the government will rebuild.

"It's pretty hard to justify locating in a flood plain as a public policy," said Sam Peltzman, an economist at the University of Chicago Business School.

But getting cheap with disaster relief is hardly a political winner. Making disaster victims whole is a cherished American tradition and, given demographic trends, not likely to recede.

For example, the number of people living in the path of hurricanes is projected to double to 72 million by 2010. They're not the only ones who count on Washington to be a guardian angel. So do Midwesterners near major rivers and Californians living on seismic faults.

Indeed, the government poured more than $10 billion into Southern California after the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

Over the years, federal relief programs have grown willy-nilly and continue to run on automatic pilot without any comprehensive assessment of the government's risk exposure. There are no fixed rules for a presidential disaster declaration, which starts aid flowing.

Consider the flood insurance program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Homes can be insured for up to $250,000; furnishings and belongings for up to $100,000. The average annual premium: $320.

According to data ferreted out by the National Wildlife Federation this summer, nearly 40 percent of flood insurance payments from 1978 to 1995 went to about 2 percent of properties that repeatedly flood.

Among them were about 5,600 properties whose owners received cumulative payments in excess of what their homes were worth. In Houston, a single house valued at $114,480 was flooded 16 times from 1989 to 1995. The owners collected payments totaling $806,590, about seven times the value of their home. In California, Sonoma County had 544 properties that repeatedly flooded; the city of Malibu had 125.

David Conrad, a senior policy analyst for the wildlife federation, said that for years the information on these flood-prone properties was closely held by FEMA. Now that it is out in the open, the agency is working on recommendations to Congress for controlling the costs. The conservation group believes the government should offer to buy some of the homes and let the land revert to nature.

"We need to move to greater sharing of responsibility at all levels so we aren't inducing development into risky locations," Conrad said. "It's an unintended consequence."

Flood insurance isn't the only disaster program receiving scrutiny.

FEMA also runs a "public assistance program" that pays for local communities to rebuild their infrastructure after a disaster. "Infrastructure" originally meant things like roads and bridges. But in 1974, Congress expanded that to include recreational facilities, reasoning it would help restore "normalcy" to ravaged areas.

As a result, the well-to-do California community of Indian Wells, near Palm Springs, received $872,000 from the feds to repair a golf course damaged in 1993 flooding. According to the FEMA inspector general, the city-owned golf course was running a surplus of about $1 million a year and had its own disaster reserve.

The inspector general also criticized $88m. in federally funded repairs to the Los Angeles Coliseum after the Northridge quake and $5.7m. to fix the quake-damaged scoreboard at Anaheim Stadium in Orange County. Such revenue-generating facilities should not be repaired at federal expense, he said.

FEMA Director James Lee Witt, who has built a reputation as an effective administrator, rejects the view that government, as insurer and rebuilder, is a facilitator of risk in disaster-prone areas.

"I would challenge you on that," Witt said. "Critics don't see the good things about (the flood insurance program). Communities that join the program have to adopt stricter building codes. If they want to be in this program, they have to build stronger and better."

But Witt acknowledges that he is concerned about the balance between incentives and risks. He plans to make recommendations to Congress this fall on how to tighten things up.

The cost of federal disaster relief has skyrocketed during the '90s – partly because of calamities like the Northridge quake and Hurricane Andrew and partly because of program expansions and, according to critics, lack of oversight.

Relief responsibilities are spread out across several agencies. In addition to FEMA, the Small Business Administration makes low-interest, long-term loans to homeowners, renters and businesses in disaster areas. The Army Corps of Engineers tries to prevent disasters, and the Agriculture Department helps farmers with crop relief. But according to the congressional General Accounting Office, an up-to-date accounting of combined disaster spending by these agencies does not exist.

Sen. Christopher S. Bond, R-Mo., has pressed for tighter controls on disaster spending, without much luck. Bond believes the criteria for the president to declare an emergency should be spelled out in law. And he wants to restrict the kinds of rebuilding that FEMA can pay for. So far, all he's been able to get is committee approval of an amendment that would bar the agency from fixing golf courses.

That illustrates the political difficulty of clamping down on disaster relief: No legislator wants to choke off a source of funds that could be available to their constituents at a time of great need.

Howard Leiken, a senior administrator at FEMA's flood insurance program, said disaster programs can only be changed slowly.

"You can't argue that people should be left on their own," Leiken said. "If you want solutions that are viable politically and socially, it gets complicated."

(Los Angeles Times)

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ITV undergoes fall face-lift

By HELEN KAYE

Introducing the ITV fall/winter lineup, Israel Broadcasting Authority head Uri Porat spoke of *amcha*, the Hebrew word for "the common people."

The new season, he said, brings people's lives onto the screen. ITV, he stressed, "aims to open the screen to the public at large, not just to celebrities and highbrow panels."

He didn't actually say that ITV was going down-market in a serious effort to close the ratings gap between it and Channel 2, but the hint was there. Dyed-in-the-wool highbrows, meanwhile, can get their kind of programming on Channel 33, from the beginning of next year.

"While some people watch a movie or a sitcom on Channel 1, others may prefer a concert on 33," he said expansively.

But if this year's programming lives up to its promise, there really may be something to watch on Channel 1 from October 18, when most of the new schedule starts.

Miri Shilon's *Shilon on One* debuted on Sunday. The novice Shilon's appointment as a talk-show host occasioned a lot of media flap and the contention that if she hadn't been Dan Shilon's wife, nobody would have even considered her. Her debut, which received a 20.1% rating, was generally panned. And it had the misfortune to coincide with a major row between husband Dan and Prime Minister Netanyahu over Netanyahu's stated willingness to forego NIS 1,500 of his salary. Speaking on his own talk show (on Channel 2 last Friday) Dan said this meant nothing because, since the state pays all his living expenses, his NIS 30,000 monthly salary was pin money.

Both the IBA and Shilon herself deny the rumors that Netanyahu's office called Porat and demanded the instant cancelation of her show. "I have heard nothing about it," said Shilon. "Porat gave me some constructive criticism after the show, and I'm getting ready for next Sunday's broadcast," which is scheduled to be the last until after the holidays.

Other new shows are a sports quiz (Sundays, 7:30 p.m), and a current-affairs magazine, which will travel around the country talking to "*amcha*." It is hosted by Meir Suissa and Moshe Ivgi and called *Suissa and Ivgi Ltd.* (Mondays, 9:30 p.m).

Hourglass (*Sha'on Hol*), a vintage history show with film clips, newsreel footage and interviews, will be shown Fridays at 7:30 p.m. On Wednesday nights at 7:30, Ehud Manor will host a program that bears his name and offers profiles of successful people from all walks of life.

Other shows have new formats, such as Monday night's *Popolitica*, which will be hosted by Ya'acov Ahimeir, and will also travel occasionally; a computer program (Thursdays, 7:30 p.m) which has been upgraded from the *Click* format aimed at youth; and of course, the nightly *Mabat* with Chaim Yavin. This will be a new, improved "much more dynamic" *Mabat*, says Porat, adding that it will provide "the best and most reliable news."

The Saturday night *Tradition* program has undergone a facelift, too, and will embrace all the mutifaceted aspects of Judaism and Judaic traditions.

ITV would like to do more original programming, Porat says, but has budget constraints that the competition doesn't have. The IBA budget is some NIS 670 million, of which about two-thirds goes to its TV stations. The drama department can call on some NIS 3m., and the documentary unit on twice that.

Despite the limitations, ITV has increased the number of documentaries and dramas. One example is a two-part drama directed by Eli Cohen and starring Sasson Gabai which takes place on the ill-fated *Egoz*, which sank in the Straits of Gibraltar in 1961 with 43 clandestine immigrants from Morocco and an Israeli emissary on board.

Porat also promises the best of US and British imports which perforce make up a large part of the season.

For BBCphiles, the good news is that Sunday nights from 10:30 will be devoted to BBC period dramas, the first of which is Fielding's *Tom Jones*. ITV has signed a 10-year contract with the BBC for more such shows.

And in a first for ITV, there is a joint ITV/BBC three-part documentary series about the Shaltiel family, which traces its roots to 11th-century Spain and – according to Israeli-born Chicagoan Moshe Shaltiel – possibly the lineage of King David.

Eighteen documentaries – 12 of them Israeli-produced and six imported – will fill the Tuesday 10 p.m. slot.

All of these programs are to be presented in a regular and permanent schedule – a first for ITV.



The first episode of 'Shilon on One,' hosted by Miri Shilon, was panned by the critics. (Flash 90)

A showbiz Top 40

Forbes magazine this week published its list of highest-paid entertainers. The following list includes this year's rank, last year's rank, 1998 estimated income in millions of dollars, and a brief description.

1 (6), **Jerry Seinfeld**, 225, *Seinfeld* star and co-creator

2 (NR), **Larry David**, 200, *Seinfeld* co-creator

3 (1), **Steven Spielberg**, 175, director, *Schindler's List*, *Saving Private Ryan*

4 (3), **Oprah Winfrey**, 125, talk-show host, actress

5 (NR), **James Cameron**, 115, director, *Titanic*

6 (13), **Tim Allen**, 77, star and creator, *Home Improvement*

7 (4), **Michael Crichton**, 65, author, co-creator of *ER*

8 (11), **Harrison Ford**, 58, actor, *Six Days, Seven Nights*

9 (12), **Rolling Stones**, 57, rock group

10 (NR), **Master P**, 56.5, rapper and chief executive of No Limit Records

11 (28), **Robin Williams**, 56, actor, *Good Will Hunting*

12 (15), **Celine Dion**, 55.5, pop singer

13 (18), **Mel Gibson**, 55, actor, *Lethal Weapon 4*

14 (21), **Garth Brooks**, 54, country singer

15 (NR), **Sean "Puffy" Combs**, 53.5, rap artist, music producer

16 (NR), **Mike Judge**, 53, co-creator, *King of the Hill*

17 (NR), **Greg Daniels**, 53, co-creator, *King of the Hill*

18 (NR), **Chris Carter**, 52, producer of the movie and creator of *The X-Files*

19 (7), **David Copperfield**, 49.5, illusionist

20 (32), **Spice Girls**, 49, pop group

21 (NR), **Paul Reiser**, 48, actor, *Mad About You*

22 (NR), **Eddie Murphy**, 47.5, actor, *Dr. Dolittle*

23 (17), **John Travolta**, 47, actor, *Pulp Fiction*

24 (NR), **Drew Carey**, 45.5, comic, *The Drew Carey Show*

25 (NR), **Bonnie/Terry Turner**, 45, producers, *Third Rock From the Sun*



Jerry Seinfeld

26 (NR), **Tom Hanks**, 44, actor, *Saving Private Ryan*

27 (NR), **Danny Jacobson**, 42, writer, *Mad About You*

28 (35), **Kevin Costner**, 41, actor, *The Postman*

29 (39), **Kevin Bright/Marta Kauffman/David Crane**, 40.5, writer-producers, *Friends*

30 (NR), **Brad Pitt**, 40, actor, *Seven*

31 (8), **Stephen King**, 40, author

32 (NR), **Nicolas Cage**, 38.5, actor, *Leaving Las Vegas*

33 (NR), **Bruce Helford**, 38, executive producer, *The Drew Carey Show*

34 (NR), **Leonardo DiCaprio**, 37, actor, *Titanic*

35 (NR), **John Wells**, 35, writer, *ER*

36 (NR), **Will Smith**, 34, actor, *Men in Black*

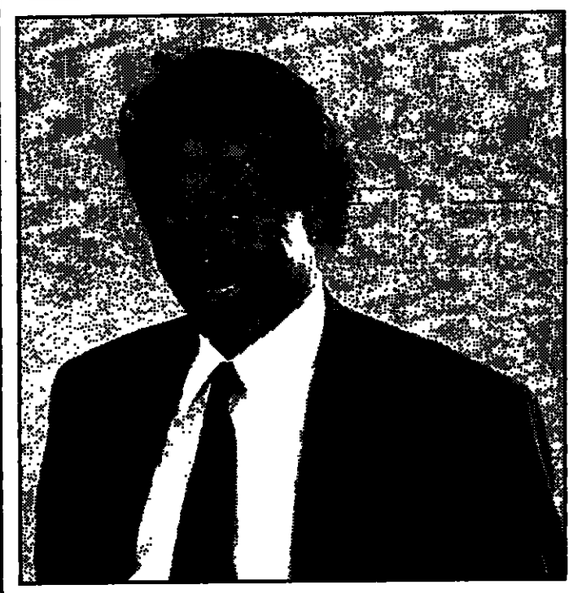
37 (26), **Jim Carrey**, 32.5, actor, *The Truman Show*

38 (NR), **Metallica**, 32, rock group

39 (NR), **Helen Hunt**, 31, actress, *Mad About You*

40 (NR), **Julia Roberts**, 28, actress, *My Best Friend's Wedding*

(AP)



Iglesias to play Caesarea and Yad Eliahu

Heartthrob singer Julio Iglesias, who has sold some 220 million records – more than anybody else in the world – is coming here for two concerts. The first is on October 13 at the Roman Theater in Caesarea and at the second is at the Yad Eliahu sports stadium the following evening. A doctor's son, Iglesias was born in Madrid in 1943. A driving accident ended his dreams of becoming a professional athlete, and he took to poetry and the guitar for solace. His fame started with "Gwendolyne" at the 1971 Eurovision and he's been on top ever since.

– Helen Kaye

Finding a place for the bassoon

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

In 1987 Italian bassoonist Daniele Damiano made a major professional move – he left his homeland to join the prestigious Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. "I found this orchestra a very special one; the orchestra's rather dark sound was very close to my own ideas," he says.

On Saturday night in Jerusalem, Damiano spoke with warmth and enthusiasm about his bassoon and his career. He had just finished playing a short opus by Verdi at the first Jerusalem International Chamber Music Festival and was relaxing in the cool Jerusalem air over a glass of beer.

Damiano, undoubtedly one of the best bassoonists to have played in this part of the world and one of the instrument's leading interpreters worldwide, says that a bassoonist's career solely "depends on what you want to do and achieve. If you want to have a career like other musicians then you have a problem because the repertoire is very small and limited. For a soloist this is a big problem. As far as I am concerned, the best situation is to combine a position with a leading orchestra with a solo career."

Which is exactly what Damiano has done in Berlin, where he plays with many local chamber-music ensembles aside from his regular concerts as the Berlin Philharmonic's principal bassoonist. He also takes more than occasional sojourns to perform in solo recitals and as a soloist with orchestras.

Damiano explains that the major reason for the bassoon's limited repertoire has to do with the fact that "the instrument developed rather late. The bassoon that we know today was shaped only in 1930. The sound of the old baroque bassoon was very small and its dynamics were rather limited so the romantic composers found no interest in it. In the baroque period there were many works written for the bassoon, probably because the sound environment was totally different."



Damiano: 'I like the bassoon's proximity to the human voice.'

Indeed the instrument is still developing.

"Now they are using computer techniques to reshape the overall way the bassoon looks and sounds, and I'm sure that in 20 years it will be quite a different instrument."

Besides the bassoon, Damiano's one passion is flying.

"I was one of the first to obtain a flying license in Berlin after the falling of the wall. And now, whenever I have the time, I take a light plane and fly wherever I want to."

The 37-year-old Damiano, who has played the bassoon since he was 15, says "I like the kind of proximity the bassoon has to the human voice. It has always fascinated me."

The roots of choral singing

CLASSIC DISCS

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Choral singing is one of the oldest musical traditions. Whether by specialized practitioners or the congregation at large, it's part of most religions. Long before the great baroque composers began writing church music, monks sang in mesmerizing unison, tribes chanted as they prayed for rain, and the cantor was leading the synagogue in worship.

Over the past four centuries, choral music has outgrown its original dimensions and functions. The British probably have the most developed choral tradition.

A new disc performed by the Winchester Cathedral Choir under the direction of David Hill (*Stanford Sacred Choral Music Volume 3*, Hyperion, CDA66974) is a fine example of the British tradition. The music of Sir Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924) is full-blown choral music, influenced by tradition yet presented in a powerful, dramatic manner that was alien to the music of several centuries ago. This disc showcases the choir at its very best.

Traveling back in musical history, the newest disc in the Tesori Del Piemonte series (*Volume 5: Leonarda: La Musa Novarese Opus 111* 30-206) reveals choral music gems composed by the relatively unknown Isabella Leonarda (1620-1704). Paolo Monticelli leads his ensemble of instrumentalists and singers in a mesmerizing rendition which is less vast, more transparent, and much more lucid than that of Stanford.

The baroque choral-music writing is much more intimate and subtle than that written in England during this century. This album is one of the most exciting discs to have reached the market in recent history. It is a first-rate, early-music-oriented performance of musical treasures that is rarely encountered.

One of the more important choral ensembles to have emerged recently in England is The Tallis Scholars. Now celebrating its silver anniversary, the ensemble – with pure sound, refined artistry and impeccable musicianship – has come up with a special collection album (*The Tallis Scholars 25th Anniversary*, Gimell 454 990-2) which is a pure winner. Featuring recordings from its vast catalog, this album takes the eager listener on a captivating journey from the music of Victoria and Lassus to that of Tallis and Byrd.

Contrasting this early English choral music with the Italian music on the previous disc suggests that although there are many differences between the styles, there is also much in common as well.

Estonian Arvo Part takes choral music back to its roots. Part writes hypnotic soothing music which, despite his very contemporary style, reminds one of long-forgotten traditions. Part's newest opus, *Kanon Pokajanen* (*Arvo Part Kanon Pokajanen*, ECM New Series 1654/55) is a most revealing 83-minute double disc performed by the always exceptional Estonian Philharmonic Orchestra and Chamber Choir, directed by Tonu Kaljuste. This is music that takes you on a transcendental journey through flowing, soulful music. Part, one of the most intriguing composers of our age, continues the centuries-old tradition of the human voice rising in a prayer of thanksgiving to celebrate creation and the beauty of nature. It is both a musical and a spiritual experience that is not easily forgotten.

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A moderate alliance

A recent editorial in Syria's official *Al-Ba'ath* newspaper described this week's visit here by Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz as a "hostile move." This is a bit like the local mafia boss complaining about people in the community joining together to keep their neighborhood safe. If there were no aggressive dictatorships around, there would be no need for democracies to join together in self-defense.

On Monday, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu backtracked from calling the burgeoning Turkish-Israeli relationship an "axis," saying this created a "false impression" because "our ties are not directed against anyone." Yilmaz was slightly less circumspect, stating, "Frankly, I don't care how Syria comments on my visit. Everyone is aware of the hostile intentions of Syria toward Turkey." Aside from Netanyahu's initial slip, both leaders got it right: the Turkish-Israeli relationship need not be overtly against any nation, but neither should the moderate nations of the region be defensive about their right to defend themselves.

The real "hostile" actions are being taken by Syria, and on an ongoing basis. It is Syria that is facilitating a proxy war against Israel in Lebanon, harboring terrorist groups that attack Israel and Turkey, and boycotting the peace process. Syria has already swallowed one independent nation, Lebanon, and has in the past revealed its designs upon another neighbor, Jordan.

In this context, it is not surprising that Jordan has distanced itself from the general Arab disapproval of the Israeli-Turkish relationship, even sending an observer to the US-Turkish-Israeli naval exercise in January.

Crown Prince Hassan, at a press conference during Yilmaz's visit to Amman, even chided those who are upset about Israeli-Turkish ties, and wondered out loud why they were not equally concerned about the Syrian-Iraqi and other military alliances in the region.

In fact, as Dr. Amikan Nahmani of Bar-Ilan University has pointed out, the Turkish-Israeli military alliance is not a NATO-style mutual strategic defense pact, and is unlikely to become one. Rather, it is a case of a long-term relationship deepening and becoming more public since the advent of the Oslo peace process.

While it is true that relations with Turkey could go back into a less public mode if the peace process were to fall apart, or if a more fundamentalist-oriented government were to come to power there, this is no reason for not enhancing ties whenever possible. In any case, there is no reason why Turkish-Israeli relations should be tightly linked to the Arab-Israeli relations. As Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's meetings with Greek and Cypriot military attaches demonstrates, Israel rightly maintains close relations with all three nations, despite differences among them.

Though the concern has been expressed in Israel that Netanyahu is seeking to enhance Israeli-Turkish ties as a substitute for the peace process, there is no reason to view such ties as an alternative to pursuing peace with the Arab world. On the contrary, the two processes are mutually complimentary: Oslo allowed Turkey to be more open about its friendship with Israel, and that deepening friendship puts pressure on rejectionist states, like Syria, not to resist the peace bandwagon.

In Turkey and in Israel, Yilmaz's visit is perceived as a positive step for both countries. Despite the attention paid to the military relationship, this visit focused mainly on doubling the $1 billion in trade between the two countries. As the only two full democracies in the Mideast, and as nations that bridge the cultural gap between this region and Europe, Turkey and Israel are natural trading partners.

A second joint naval search-and-rescue exercise among the US, Turkey, and Israel will reportedly take place in November, and once again Egypt and Jordan have been invited to participate. It would be encouraging if Egypt participated at some level in this humanitarian exercise, or at least indicated a future willingness to do so.

According to Nahmani, David Ben-Gurion once complained that Turkey treated its close ties with Israel "like a man treats a mistress, by keeping them hidden." The fact that such ties must no longer be hidden is both a major accomplishment of the peace process and an important impetus to its future success. Prime Minister Yilmaz and Crown Prince Hassan were right to brush off criticisms of the Israeli-Turkish relationship, just as they would not be swayed by those who reject the Arab-Israeli peace process.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THATCHER'S LEGACY

Sir, – I must take issue with Daniel Bloch's article, "Israel's Thatchers" (September 6), where he said that Margaret Thatcher's policies with the unions were disastrous in the long run.

The reverse is nearer the truth because one of the main reasons why the UK economy is so strong is because there have been so few strikes in the last decade – as a result of labor policies initiated by Margaret Thatcher. Furthermore, it has also been a major reason for so much foreign investment pouring into the UK.

This almost complete lack of strikes has been beneficial to the whole country and, because the economy has boomed, so the unemployment numbers have dropped.

Daniel Bloch also seems to be unaware that the present Labor government has kept virtually all the previous Conservative administration's labor laws and has plans to keep almost all of them.

MICHAEL BRAHAMS
Councillor, City of Westminster.

London.

UNNECESSARY APPROVAL

Sir, – After all the trouble taken to abolish the UN Resolution "Zionism is Racism," you choose to give opinion page imprimatur to Bernard Wasserstein's abysmally hostile and ignorant "Mixed Marriage is a Mitzva," (August 24).

Surely Wasserstein's democratic right to be heard has its place in "Letters to the Editor."

MIRIAM L. GAVARIN

Jerusalem.

SUN, SEA AND SEWAGE

Sir, – I have been holidaying in Tel Aviv for a fortnight with my husband, our two children aged one and three and my sister. We came here mainly for the beach. Our three-year-old daughter especially had been greatly looking forward to this.

We arrived on a Tuesday and on Wednesday had an enjoyable time on the beach. On Thursday my husband took our three-year-old to the beach again, where they innocently paddled and played in the seriously contaminated water. There were no announcements or notices or warnings in English whatsoever given by anyone.

To our great shock, horror and disgust we discovered on Thursday morning, via *The Jerusalem Post*, that my husband and daughter had been swimming in raw sewage.

The beaches had apparently been closed but unless you could read Hebrew or decipher the warnings that I believe the lifeguards occasionally gave in Hebrew, you would not and could not have known this. There was no difficulty at all in entering the sea.

The hotel reception, when questioned by my sister as to why they had not deemed it necessary to inform their guests of the dire situation, merely shrugged that it was not their responsibility. On the Saturday though, after many complaints, a small notice in English was displayed, and if you looked hard you could find it.

I would like to know who is responsible for the appalling immoral behavior displayed by all the authorities involved, be they the municipal chiefs, the health ministry, our package tour representative, or the hotel we are the guests of. At best, attempts to warn and inform of the situation have been pathetic, at worst, they have been nonexistent.

I have since spoken with many tourists at the hotel who have been infected, including young children, as a direct result of going in the sea since Thursday morning. All of them are very angry at not having been informed. Fortunately for us, my husband and daughter seemed to have escaped infection and I cannot tell you how relieved I am that I did not go into the sea, as I am in the early stages of pregnancy, an especially vulnerable time to miscarriage and congenital abnormalities.

To add to all the distress it seems we cannot get hard facts or good advice from any source at the municipal chiefs or the health ministry.

Today we read it is safe to go into the water, but we are told by a Hebrew-speaking friend that it is more dangerous than ever due to further problems.

I appreciate that accidents happen, but I am amazed and aghast at how little the health of the all-too-few tourists here seems to be respected.

It makes me wonder whether Israel actually wants any tourists at all. If the car drivers don't get you and you don't wheeze to death from all the "in your face" smoking, then it seems perhaps the raw sewage in the otherwise beautiful sea will.

MICHELLE STAPLETON

Tel Aviv.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

50 years ago: On September 9, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that while the Israeli government would be responsible for political affairs and security, the Jewish Agency would deal chiefly with matters of immigration, settlement and the care of new immigrants until properly absorbed. According to Dr. Israel Goldstein, the newly-elected treasurer, the Agency hoped to settle 10,000 immigrants a month.

25 years ago: On September 9, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that Black September terrorists claimed responsibility for the blast which rocked the stand of a German firm promoting Israeli products at the West Berlin Radio and Television Fair.

Alexander Zvielli

"Why are you always going somewhere?"



Bait for war

MOSHE ZAK

Even if Dennis Ross' diplomatic shuttle mission between Jerusalem and Ramallah, which begins today, ends in failure, war will not break out.

If we analyze the situation logically, there's no reason for Arafat to start a war. He has another option, in which Israel will be forced to fire the first shot in order to retain the credibility of its commitment to stop unilateral moves by the Palestinian Authority, whether territorial or political.

But there is no logic in war. There are always motives that historians don't pay enough attention to. One is reminded by association of other events similar to those of today.

• Before the Six Day War, there was an economic recession and a depressed mood in society that was expressed in the macabre phrase "Last one out, turn off the lights at the airport."

• The Yom Kippur War was preceded by a summit conference of leaders of non-aligned countries at Casablanca, where they voted to break diplomatic ties with Israel. This resolution was the coping stone in the wall of isolation that the Arabs built around Israel before the war.

Today, too, there are illusions on the other side of the border. They believe, mistakenly, that Israeli society is on the verge of collapse and will be unable to close ranks in an emergency.

The inaccurate Arab assessment in 1967, based in part on Israeli media reports, broke down in the waiting period before the war, and even more so when its outcome became known. After the war, not only were the lights in the airport not turned off, but large numbers of immigrants arrived. The national mood surged by leaps and bounds.

The same is not true of the non-aligned summit held last week in Durban. Gone is the time when Israel was upset not to be included in the Bandung conference that established the non-aligned movement.

THE ENTIRE notion of non-aligned countries has become a historical anachronism. The two blocs that existed in the world until the collapse of the Soviet Union are no longer a reality, and most countries, including Russia, are clients of the one superpower – the US.

Only Israel seemed to pay some attention to the Durban conference. In the Western newspapers I read, I found nothing but a picture of Nelson Mandela with Fidel Castro. But here, as usual, we miss no opportunity to report attacks on Israel. When Mandela trashes Netanyahu, or Arafat attacks Israel and Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Haddam repeats his well-worn accusations against Israel, we can't pass up the chance to show our concern for Israeli morale.

Though the Durban conference fulfilled the Palestinian desire in expressing a wish that Palestine will be admitted as a full member of the UN during the next UN assembly (starting September 1998 and ending September, 1999), the Palestinians also understand that the importance of the non-aligned movement is not what it used to be. They know that the important countries in the group have close relations with Israel that are more significant than their votes in the UN.

The Palestinians see that the countries that automatically condemn Israel are opposed by one great super-power that supports Israel, and blocks any resolution liable to damage Israel's security and welfare.

These votes do, however, serve a purpose in the Palestinian psychological warfare against Israel. Giving Israelis the impression that they are diplomatically isolated and on the verge of economic collapse is one of the objectives of this warfare.

The Palestinians also know how to exploit the legitimate differences of opinion between the government and the opposition in order to further their psychological warfare and spread despondency among Israelis.

But, while waging psychological warfare against Israel, they are persuaded by the magic of their own campaign and begin to believe that Israeli society is really on the point of disintegration.

Their inaccurate conclusion is that Israelis are no longer able to rally around a joint national effort in order to preserve the credibility of their deterrent ability.

Such a conclusion is liable to push the Palestinians toward illogical steps, without waiting for May 1999, when they can test whether Israel society is really able to rally around the supreme interest of the survival of the state. If the Palestinians do embrace warlike actions they will try to involve the Arab states, as they have done in the past.

This is why the image of Israeli society reflected in the Arab prism is so important. This image could unintentionally push everybody down the slippery slope to war that nobody wants.

I am certain that none of the demonstrators shouting that without a second withdrawal there will be war realize that this could provoke a war.

None of the satirists throwing cold water on our morale want a war. Only a few of those who say they want to emigrate really mean it. Certainly none of the opposition who criticize the government for the chaos they have brought on the country have thought about how the Arabs are interpreting their statements.

But what can we do? We live in a glass house, and our jokes and debates here are heard over the border and are likely to serve as bait for war.

The right to strike

DAVID NEWMAN

In light of the recent strikes, it is little wonder that the government, under the guidance of its laissez-faire guru, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, is suggesting the introduction of legislation which will make it illegal for trade unions to strike unless they first conduct a ballot of their members.

Such legislation is similar to that which was introduced, after much strife, by the Conservative government of Margaret Thatcher in Britain during the 1980s, and which severely curtailed the power of the all-powerful British trade unions.

The initial, gut, reaction from all those who were affected by the strike is to applaud this move toward greater democracy in trade unions. After all, the argument goes, why should tens of thousands of workers be forced to strike when they may not even agree with the forceful demands made by their leaders who, in turn, may be spurred on as much by political ambitions as by the needs of the people they represent?

This is particularly the case in countries such as Israel and Britain, where trade unions maintain strong political and institutional links with the major political parties of the Left and often use their right to strike as part of the political struggle aimed at weakening Conservative and right-wing governments.

WHILE the democratization of the trade unions may appear, at first sight, to be a positive move, it is important not to ignore the detrimental effects of such a policy, were it to be legislated.

Organizing ballots for thousands of workers every time a dispute arose would require a great deal of time and resources.

Election procedures would have to be worked out, ballot boxes set up in every workplace, and a substantial investment of resources would have to be poured into ensuring that each and every member have their fair say.

In many cases, the trade union would not undertake this arduous and expensive process, while employers would be able to exploit this situation by offering poorer work conditions in the knowledge that the unions would be unable to continually organize the necessary ballots.

The arguments for and against the holding of ballots before every decision to strike are, in some ways, similar to those we hear concerning the need to hold referendums before the government makes major policy decisions, such as the signing of a peace treaty in return for the withdrawal from territory.

Such important decisions should, so we are told, be made by the people as a whole, not just by a small group of leaders who may have ulterior motives for promoting, or opposing, these policies. In many states in America, most notably California, a growing number of issues are left for the public to vote on on election day, rather than the elected politicians deciding on their behalf.

This is seen as a move toward true democracy and people power.

THE COUNTER-ARGUMENT is equally forceful. Why do we have elections at all, if we do not allow our elected officials to make the necessary decisions on our behalf?

If we don't like the decisions they make, then we can replace them at the polling booth every few years. The business of the people we elect is to negotiate on our behalf, and thus remove the need for us to be continually involved in making decisions over issues about which, in many cases, we are poorly informed and do not know all the intricate ins and outs.

Of course, one of the more peculiar aspects of striking in Israel is the fact that, in most cases, workers do not lose their wages.

This is in direct contrast to the situation in many countries, where the right to strike is recognized as a basic part of the democratic system, but where workers are not paid for the time they strike. Workers will not be prepared to lose their wages over a strike which they do not fully support.

But the downside of this is the fact that governments and employers, in turn, attempt to exploit this situation by dragging on negotiations for as long as possible, during which period workers experience severe economic hardship and, eventually, have no choice but to return to work, without any improvement whatsoever in their work conditions or salary packages.

Viewed from this perspective, trade union members in Israel have it easy. They can afford to go on strike in the knowledge that their wages will continue to be paid.

The right to strike is, without doubt, an essential component of any democratic society. It ensures the rights of workers and makes sure that governments or private employers do not exploit them out of hand. At the same time, when trade unions control the fates of hundreds of thousands of workers, the right to strike is a weapon that should not be used lightly. It is when the right to strike is abused that governments counteract in an attempt to curtail these same basic rights.

We have reached a critical juncture in the history of labor relations in Israel. Both the Histadrut and the government should act wisely, so that bitter, even violent, confrontations of the sort that greeted the Thatcher government's attempts to curtail trade union powers in Britain, are not repeated in this country, to the detriment of all.

Concrete action

EFRAIM ZUROFF

On December 1, 1941, 45-year-old Gitta Kaplan and her six-year-old daughter Fruma were arrested by the Lithuanian Security Police of the Vilnius district after having escaped from the local ghetto.

Aleksandras Lileikis, the chief of that police unit, ordered that both the mother and her daughter were to be incarcerated in the Lukiski prison. On the next day, Lileikis instructed his men to turn the Kaplans over to the German Security police chief and they were murdered ("treated according to orders") on December 22, 1941.

Gitta Kaplan would be 102 today and her daughter Fruma, 66, had they survived the Holocaust. Their presence in a courtroom in Vilnius this week would have been of particular significance since they are among the numerous victims of Aleksandras Lileikis, who today is scheduled to face the charge of genocide in the first-ever trial of a Nazi war criminal in a former-Communist country.

His trial will therefore be of unique importance, not only in Lithuania, but throughout Eastern Europe, where so many local collaborators assisted the Nazis in implementing the Final Solution.

The problem is, however, that it is not at all clear whether the trial, which has already been postponed on highly questionable grounds several times, will actually take place.

Lithuania, which had the highest victimology rate in the Holocaust (over 96%), and in which there was highly-extensive collaboration with the Nazis by locals, has been extremely reluctant to face its bloody World War II past.

During the eight years which have passed since it obtained its independence, Lithuanian leaders have paid lipservice to the issue of justice, but have proven extremely reluctant to take concrete action in this regard.

In fact, despite an unequivocal promise by former president Brazauskas, in a speech in the Knesset, that Nazi murderers would be brought to justice, he left office three years later without a single prosecution having taken place.

If Lileikis does not appear in court today, yet another Lithuanian Nazi murderer will escape the bar of justice

On the contrary, at least six Lithuanian Nazi collaborators who faced prosecution by the US authorities, moved back permanently to Lithuania during this period, but none were brought to trial.

LILEIKIS was the most prominent among them and both the US and Israeli governments put pressure on Lithuania regarding his case, as did various Jewish organizations. On the surface, the Lithuanians responded positively by passing a special law which ostensibly allowed the prosecution of suspects indicted for genocide, even if they were not medically fit to stand trial, as was the claim made by Lileikis.

It now appears, however, that the special legislation merely allows the investigation of such suspects, but not their prosecution. Given the fact that Lileikis is already 91 years old, it will probably not be too difficult for him to convince a sympathetic judge that he is unable to face trial.

In short, if he appears today, there will be a trial. If not, yet another Lithuanian Nazi murderer will have escaped the bar of justice.

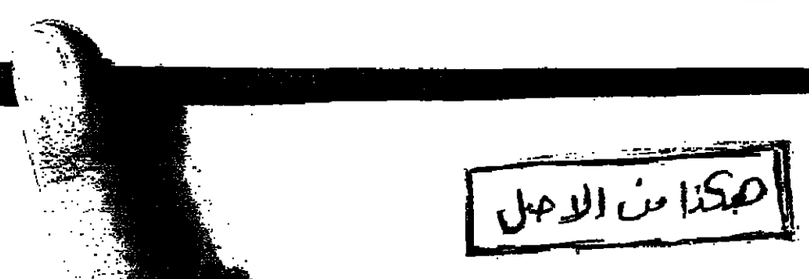
Rumor has it that the Lithuanian authorities plan to issue a statement appealing to their prominent defendant to appear for his trial. It would be extremely ironic if their appeal to Lileikis will be based on his sense of patriotism and loyalty to Lithuania. After all, that was what landed him in the defendant's box to begin with, since he had repeatedly claimed that during the war he was loyally serving his beloved country.

It remains to be seen how Lileikis will respond and whether the trial will indeed take place. From a Jewish perspective, however, it is reassuring to realize that the same cause which inspired so many Lithuanians to murder Jews half a century ago is now being used to try and influence them to appear before a court of law for those same crimes.

It is also comforting to know that even 50 years after they committed atrocities, criminals like Lileikis are forced to live with the possibility of punishment.

On a personal level, however, these developments unfortunately came far too late for Gitta and Fruma Kaplan, whose lives were snuffed out by these cruel murderers.

The writer is director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Jerusalem.



998 The Jerusalem Post

Concrete action

EFRAIM ZUROFF

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If Lileikis does appear in co today, yet ano Lithuanian N murderer w escape the b justice

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When Judy Blume's Margaret grows up

After 21 trailblazing novels, Blume's adoring readers have sent her new book soaring on the best-seller lists, **Paula Span** writes

Everywhere she went, the weepies struck. "We learned," Judy Blume says, "that we had to have a box of Kleenex on the table. Like in a shrink's office."

In city after city, as Blume toured to tout her grown-up novel *Summer Sisters*, women who'd read her books when they were fifth-graders came up to her in bookstores and dissolved.

One Vancouver, Canada, fan in her twenties – Blume hops up from the wicker settee on her porch to demonstrate – flopped face-down onto the table and stayed there. Suddenly encountering the author who helped shepherd her through the terrors of middle school, the woman was unable to look up or speak, not that it mattered.

"There was no need to say much," Blume murmurs, resettling on the settee. "She knew and I knew." Then she gets teary-eyed herself and briefly buries her face in a flowered cushion.

"It's the emotional connection," she quavers. "They keep saying, 'You saved my life.' "

A pardonable exaggeration. Blume's 21 trailblazing novels have sold a cumulative 65 million copies, the majority to preadolescent girls who relied on her to chart the scary, mysterious territory ahead.

Years later they can still quote lines of dialogue. They recall discussing with their girlfriends, all of whom were also reading *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* – in which an 11-year-old and her pals confront what are currently dubbed "body issues" – whether seventh grade was, in fact, the appropriate time to start using deodorant. Now grown, they're propelling her latest novel to the upper reaches of the best-seller lists all over again.

"They get your jokes," Blume says affectionately. When she looks down at her still non-curvaceous chest and tells them, "I was Margaret and I haven't changed any. The exercises don't work," the women in the audience laugh ruefully.

They know all about the exercises Margaret did while chanting, "I must-I must-I must increase my bust!" They probably tried them out themselves.

IT'S ABOUT a 20-minute drive from the airport to Blume's summer retreat, on a wooded hillside overlooking Tashmoo Pond. The woman steering the Ace Taxi van along the twisty dirt road is excited to learn who lives in this rambling house with the riotous garden. "Omigod, I loved her books!" she cries.

Summer Sisters takes place on this very shoreline. From her screened porch, Blume can see the dock where she envisioned Caitlin and Vix, the dual heroines, frolicking during their Vineyard summers. In many ways, *Summer Sisters* is merely a more mature version of a Judy Blume book, reprising many of her favorite themes: coming of age, breast angst, divorce crises, the enigma of the other sex.

Before it was published, naysayers warned her that there was no audience for grown-up fiction whose characters, while they age from 12 to 30, spend much of the narrative as kids. For months Blume was in a welter of vocal anxiety about the book's fate.

"I've never felt so much that a book was going to be a disaster," she frets.

Still girlishly skinny at 60, a curly-haired pixie in khakis and a T-shirt, Blume also sounds girlishly insecure. "I thought, 'I don't want to end my long and happy career on such a sour note.' "

Now, of course, it's a hoot to exult over "this insane success": Despite mixed reviews, Blume's audience greeted *Summer Sisters* like a long-lost friend. With 480,000 copies in print, it's one of the season's most popular beach reads.

But it's not, to be frank, the volume she'll be remembered for.

Lots of authors write nostalgic heart-tuggers for women. But in 1970, when Blume published *Margaret*, almost no one was writing honest, realistic, contemporary fiction for junior high students. If scholars study the collected works of Judy Blume 50 years hence, that will be why.

"*Margaret* was really the way we were – my friends – back in the '40s and '50s," Blume says. "We talked endlessly. We talked about breast development. Counting each other's pubic hairs (a scene in *Summer Sisters*) – we did that."

The three volumes featuring an obnoxious younger brother named Fudge were inspired by her son Larry, the proverbial handful. "Larry is like me, open, volatile, friendly – we'll tell you anything," she says fondly.

The controversial *Forever*, published in 1975, was a response to her daughter Randy's request for a story about teenagers who make love and afterward are not trapped by pregnancy, struck down by wrathful gods or otherwise punished.

Later on, after her fans had learned to analyze literature at Oberlin and Wellesley, some detected a feminist subtext in many of these books: With their feisty heroines and acknowledgment of early sexuality (boys', too), they served as *Our Bodies, Ourselves* for middle-schoolers. But that, she insists, was not her goal. "The women's movement came very late to suburban New Jersey," she says.

Intentionally trailblazing or not, the Blume books hit like a sonic boom. Before the late '60s, what's now called young adult literature didn't exist; there were simply children's books and adult books.

But with the likes of Robert Cormier, Paul Zindel, S.E. Hinton and Blume, "there was a series of groundbreaking books that really challenged the conventional presentation of reality to kids," says Lois Stover, president of the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of the National Council of Teachers of English.

"The language was tougher. The endings were optimistic but not all neatly tied up. The characters weren't all white and middle-class."

Blume is not, in literary terms, the most revered of this group. Though she's praised for her dialogue and her accurate rendering of kids and their world, "she's not a stylist," Stover says. "There's not a lot that's poetic in her language."

For this reason – and perhaps because teachers are hesitant to conduct classroom discussions about nocturnal emissions or bra-shopping – Blume's works are not frequently assigned or taught. Merely read.

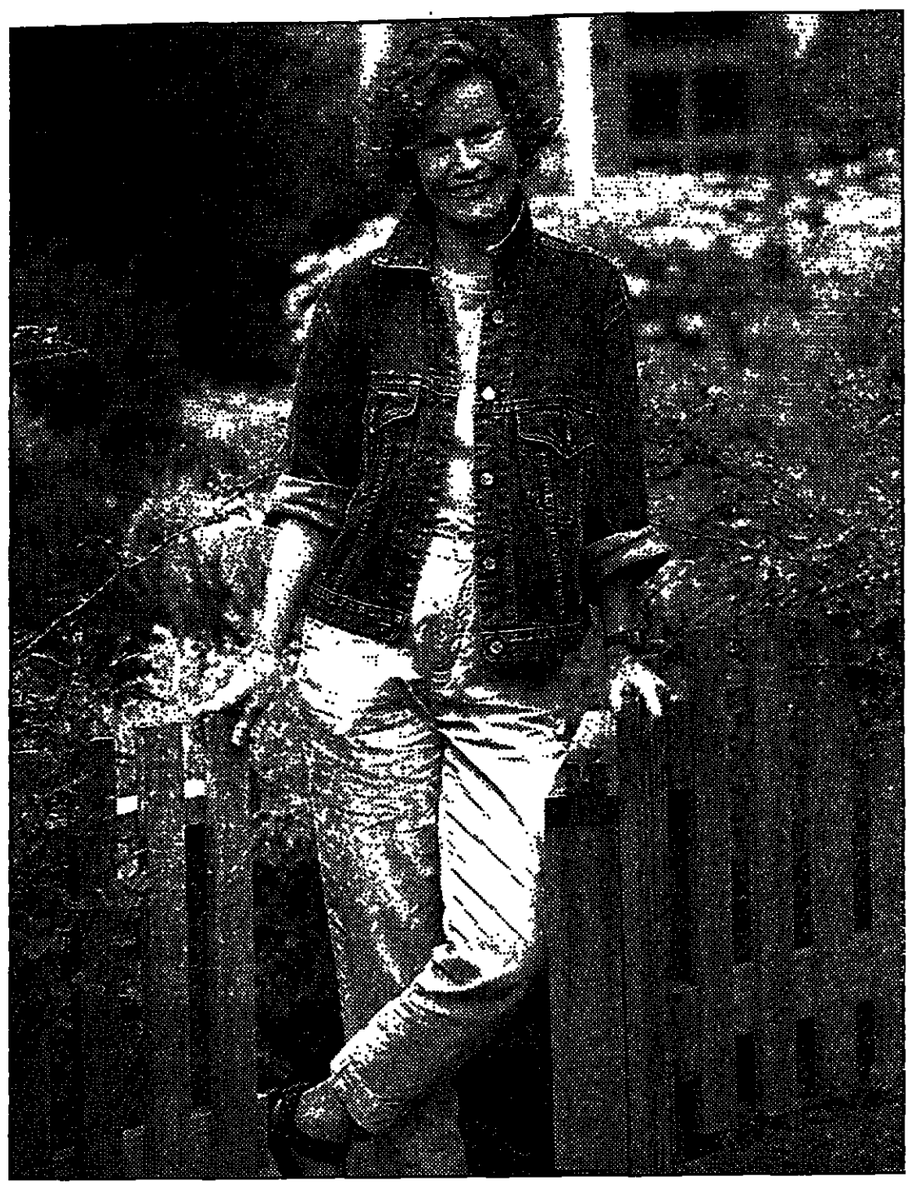
Stover, who chairs the education studies department at St. Mary's College of Maryland, was 15 and working at a public library the summer *Margaret* was published.

"I was supposed to be shelving books, but I hid in the stacks and read it instead of doing my job," she recalls. "I was in awe of her ability to capture all that confusion, that whole range of feelings and how they change like mercury."

And Stover wasn't the only one. Ask any half-dozen Gen-X'ers, particularly women, whether they read Judy Blume and get ready for a chorus of *omigods*.

IN THE early '80s (Blume believes the timing, just after the Reagan landslide, was no coincidence), her books came under assault. Parents' groups wanted them yanked from school libraries or restricted to those who could produce parental permission slips. *Forever* was blasted, during a fracas in Schaumberg, Ill., as "a sexual how-to book for junior high school students."

In Perry Township, Ohio, *Blubber* was condemned because "bad is never punished, good never comes to the fore, evil is triumphant."



Blume in full bloom: Readers keep telling her she saved their lives. (Washington Post)

People for the American Way, compiling annual reports on school censorship from 1982 through 1996, ranked Blume No. 1 on its cumulative Most Challenged Authors list, ahead of such perennials as Steinbeck, Salinger and Twain. (The Washington Post)

Yes, incest can – and does – happen here



Parenting

By Ruth Mason

We might think it doesn't happen in Israel; or in Jewish homes; or in English-speaking ones. But it does. Being Jewish or middle-class or educated or from an English-speaking country doesn't guarantee that a child is safe from incest.

Last year, 18% of the 800 calls received by the Jerusalem Rape Crisis Center complaining of sexual assault were about incest and those figures approximate those in the rest of the country.

But that doesn't mean we know how many children are incest victims here. The telephone calls to the rape crisis centers represent only a small percentage of the actual number – those who are brave, resourceful or knowledgeable enough to call.

"I don't think anybody really knows what the size of the phenomenon is," Michal Sela-Armoza, the hot-line coordinator of the Jerusalem Rape Crisis Center, told the Parenting Column. "But there are a lot more cases than we know about."

A child's experience of incest is very complex. By definition, the violation is perpetrated by a relative – someone whom the child trusts and loves and who is supposed to love her (although some boys are affected, the majority of incest victims are girls).

A child who experiences incest at an early age confuses it with love.

"Up to a certain age, children think it's okay," said Sela-Armoza. "Eventually, they begin to understand that it's wrong.

"But even then, it's difficult for them to do anything about it. If they do something, they will destroy their family. It's very scary to know that your father will go to jail, your mother will hate you and everyone will put the blame on you."

In cases between a father and daughter, mothers often know what is going on but do nothing, possibly because they are terrified of being divorced, of being left alone, said Sela-Armoza.

CHILDREN who call the hot line to report incest are usually in tears or else sound disconnected from what they're saying. They are very afraid that something terrible will happen to their family.

They know something is wrong and they blame themselves for not doing something about it sooner and sometimes for their inability to do something even now, after they've placed the call.

"They don't understand that when something like this happens to a child, she doesn't know what's right and wrong. She doesn't have the tools to protect herself from the people she loves," says Sela-Armoza.

"Incest influences a child's whole development. It becomes difficult for victims to distinguish between sex and parental love and affection. For them, it's all mixed up," she adds. "They need love and they trust their parent, yet at some point they begin to realize there's something wrong."

In approximately two-thirds of cases, the incest is committed by a father or brother. The other third is by another relative such as an uncle or cousin.

What kinds of behaviors do young incest victims exhibit? They might start acting differently, become more introverted, act as if they are keeping a scary secret. Grades may go down and the child may not want to play with her friends.

Kindergarten teachers may often see overtly sexual behavior because these children have learned that to get attention, they have to act sexually.

Also, because it's something they think about all the time, incest comes out in their drawings. A child might draw a giant penis or a girl sitting inside a cube, or a girl without a mouth, eyes and ears.

WHAT can parents do? First and foremost, children must be taught that when someone does something unpleasant to them, they are allowed to say no and that adults need to respect this. They should receive a very clear message that their body is theirs to control.

From a very young age, children should know that no one is allowed to touch their private parts except mother, when she is washing or applying an ointment.

Children should know that if anyone asks them to keep a secret from a parent, this is a bad secret and they need to tell a parent or a trusted aunt or teacher.

If you suspect a child is being sexually abused by someone who cares for her, you have a legal obligation to report it to either the police or your city's welfare office. Knowing of such a case and not reporting it is punishable by a jail term.

Investigations are not conducted by the police, but by an investigator with special training, using dolls, pictures and other non-verbal methods.

Any of Israel's eight rape crisis centers can be reached by dialing 1-202.

Too anxious?

By MARY JO KOCHAKIAN

For kids, fear is outsize. Remember being glued to the bed, terrified, unable to go the distance between bed and bathroom because of the creature on the floor? That is real fear. Adults may call these fears irrational, but they make perfect sense for a child, who doesn't have the capacity to understand real vs. made up or statistical likelihood.

What about fear of piano recital, fear of dying, fear of a bad report card? There is fear, and there is worry. Unfortunately, for many kids, the extent of it is actual illness.

"Worry and anxiety are normal experiences, and important experiences, in childhood. A majority of kids worry about a wide range of topics, including worries about future events, worries about how they will do in school or in sports," says David Fassler, child and adolescent psychiatrist.

"But parents and teachers should be concerned when the extent of the child's worry or anxiety begins to interfere with their functioning at home, at school or with friends." Fassler, who practices in Burlington, Vermont, is also author of *Help Me, I'm Sad*, about childhood depression.

Among psychiatric problems in kids, anxiety disorders "is one of the most prevalent categories," Fassler says.

It is not rare. Research consistently puts the percentage of children and teenagers who meet the criteria for an anxiety disorder at about 4 to 6 percent. The diagnostic term is "overanxious disorder," or OAD.

Worry crosses over into real problem when it is so intense and chronic that it interferes with a child's life – "when it disrupts the usual tasks of childhood and the pleasures of childhood," says Joan Tolchin, a New York child and adolescent psychiatrist who is assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at Cornell University Medical College/New York Hospital. "And when it lasts – when it becomes a behavior pattern or goes on at length."

There appears to be a genetic predisposition for anxiety disorders – the problem runs in families.

Anxiety problems often overlap with other problems, such as depression.

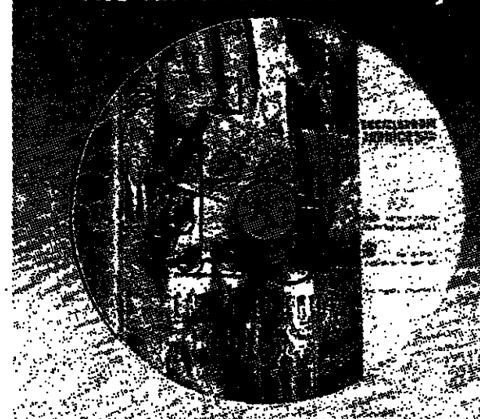
A child who cannot sleep the night before every ballgame is over the line. A kid whose jaw clenches every time she thinks about a test is over the line. So is a child who consistently avoids socializing because of anxiety.

Symptoms of an anxiety disorder may include feeling restless or keyed up, being easily tired, having trouble concentrating (or going blank during a test), irritability, muscle tension or sleep disturbances. For it to be in the disorder category, "it needs to occur more days than not" for at least six months, Fassler says.

"Treatment is highly effective," Fassler says. "It often includes individual counseling. It may also include working with the family, and it may include medication. But medication alone is not the appropriate treatment for overanxious disorder." (For more information on anxiety disorders, go to the Web site www.aacap.org – from the Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.)

(The Hartford Courant)

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Gardener's Corner



The majestic rainbow of kings

By Batsheva Mink

The iris, a flower of many colors and shimmering quality, appropriately derives its name from the Greek goddess of the rainbow.

In ancient times, the stately iris symbolized power and majesty – its three leaves represented faith, wisdom and valor. In Egypt, it was placed on the brow of the Sphinx and on the scepter of their kings. In the 12th century, Louis VII of France adopted the fleur-de-lis and emblazoned it on his heraldic bearings. First called the Fleur de Louis, then corrupted to Fleur de Luce, the iris finally became known in France as the Fleur de Lys, or Lis. Some say that the Fleur de Lys derived its name from the river Lys on the borders of Flanders, where the iris was particularly abundant.

When Edward III of England claimed the crown of France, the fleur-de-lis was added to the English coat of arms and remained there until 1801 (nearly 250 years after Calais had been reclaimed by the French). It was also added to the emblem of Eton College, founded by Henry VI.

In addition to its beauty, the iris is an herbalist's plant whose violet-scented orris root is used in perfumes to prevent evaporation. When matched with sea salt, the orris root is used as the main preservative in potpourris. It is also an ingredient in a tooth powder that is thought to prevent tooth decay.

The Italian iris, originating in the north and the Balkans, is the oldest iris in cultivation. It is one of the hardiest and toughest of plants and is almost indestructible. The bearded German iris *(I. germanica)* originated in Italy, and was brought to Germany by monks early in the millennium. But despite its rugged constitution, the iris received little attention from breeders until the 20th century.

Introduced in Macedonia, the Florentine iris was naturalized in Tuscany. The ancient arms of the city of Florence depicted a white iris on a red background, indicating the importance of the flower's commercial cultivation.

The iris is a genus of hardy perennials, which can be divided into two main groups – those having a rhizomatous root and those which grow from a bulb. The Iris botanical family (*Iridaceae*, Heb. *irus*) is a genus of about 300 species that is native to the world's northern temperate zones, especially the Mediterranean and Central Asia.

Israel hosts 15 wild iris species, 10 of which are native only to Israel. All of the species are protected by law and can be found in the semi-arid areas of Galilee, the Golan, the Gilboa, eastern Samaria, eastern Judea and the northern Negev. There are also five species growing on Mount Hermon.

The most striking of the Israeli irises is the *Iris lorteti* which flowers in May and grows only in eastern Galilee. Its large, gorgeous flowers measure 11 cm. They are pink and mottled gray, with a maroon or purple background and blue veining. However, the Lortets iris requires specific ecological conditions and can die if transferred to gardens and nurseries.

During the last 50 years, many thousands of exquisite iris hybrids have been developed. One hybrid is the bulbous iris with pear-shaped bulbs that is imported by Holland and is planted in the autumn for flowering in the spring.

CONSIDERED one of the most beautiful of all garden plants, the irises are entirely at home in a mixed border, or even in a border to themselves. Since gardeners usually confine irises to a shady corner or to the back border – away from the sun and nourishing soil – they are rarely seen in their full glory.

Irises are tolerant of pollution and drought, and are excellent in a city garden. They are also very popular as a cut flower, lending instant architectural strength and dignity to floral arrangements.

Here are a few useful guidelines for growing irises.

Planting

Both the root (rhizomatous) and the bulbous irises are best planted in autumn for spring flowering. Although they grow in any type of soil, good preparation is repaid in flower quality.

Plant 10 cm. deep and 15 cm. apart, in well-drained soil enriched with peat moss (Heb. *kavul*) and compost.

Location

Irises are fond of the sun, but in regions with extremely hot summers they should be placed in partial shade. They look good when planted against a green lawn, or as an edging to a garden path. I like to grow my irises next to roses, which I try to select so that their hues compliment and enhance the irises, rather than detract from their beauty.

Watering

Irises do not require much water, in fact the rhizomes can withstand drought admirably, especially during dormancy. During the hottest period of the summer, it is best to water deeply at long intervals. Summer mulches that encircle but do not touch the base of the plant can help conserve soil moisture. Irises loathe wet feet, especially when planted in the shade.

Feeding

Irises are heavy feeders and can soon exhaust the soil of its nutrients. Be sure to feed lightly by watering a fertilizer into the surrounding soil – once in early spring and again a month after flowering.

Division

If your plants have done well for several years, but are now gradually losing their vigor and producing fewer flowers, it's probably because their underlying roots have become congested.

Every three or four years, it's worth going through your border and picking out the plants that need rejuvenating. Lift out the clumps with a fork and cut and separate the rhizomes into sections with a sharp knife. Make sure each portion has a root and a shoot, which should be cut down to no more than 8 cms.

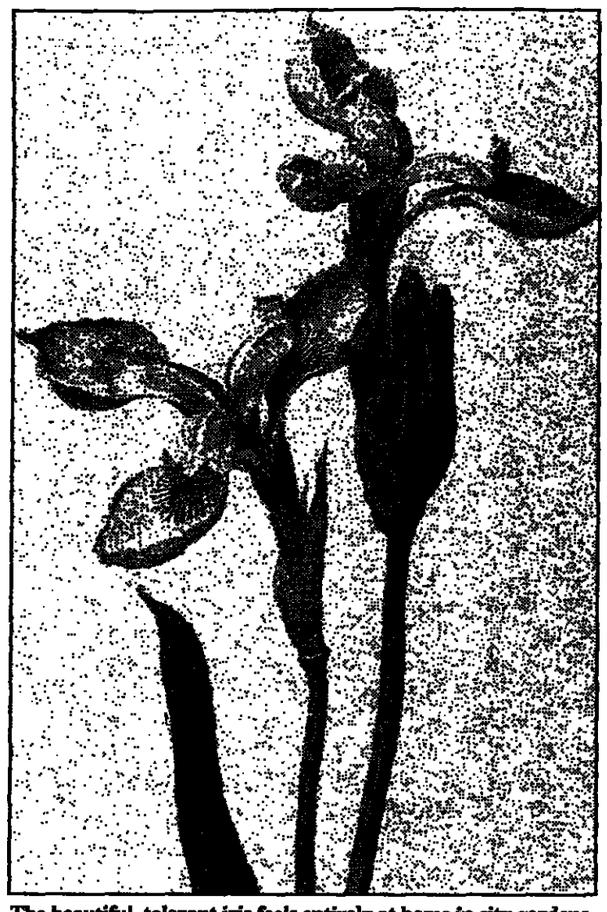
Don't feel sad about discarding the older, woody rhizomes. These modified stems bloom only once before becoming permanently flowerless food reservoirs.

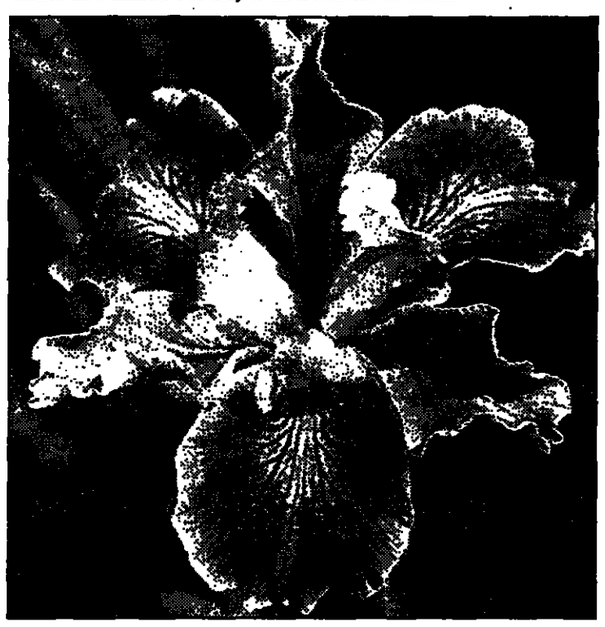
Pests and Diseases

The iris is generally trouble-free, except for the iris mosaic virus that causes yellow streaks and spots on young leaves. Affected plants may be stunted; the flowers often show dark streaks on the ground. Badly diseased rhizomes should be destroyed.

Batsheva Mink is a curator at the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens, Givat Ram.

Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact Batsheva Mink, POB 3943, Jerusalem 91039.





The beautiful, tolerant iris feels entirely at home in city gardens, either in a mixed border, or in a border to itself.



TIP OF THE WEEK

With the right care, cut irises can remain fresh for five to seven days.

Choose stems with at least one open flower, and cut them early in the morning with a very sharp blade. Place directly into a bucket of tepid water and recut the stem under water, at an upwards angle of 2.5 cm.

Stand the stems in water with a little cut-flower preservative (available from florists) and allow them to stand overnight in a cool, dark place. Remember, warm temperatures hasten development, whereas cool temperatures delay aging.

Pinch off any flowers that have wilted to allow the others to open. Every two days, cut the stem ends to remove the vascular tissue that blocks the stems. Add water regularly.

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Heads 'N' Tails



When pets act insane

By D'vora Ben Shaul

Animal behavior is sometimes strange, but can usually be explained very simply.

For example, a two-year-old female cat fascinated by children's cartoons watches the tube for as long as an hour, moving only her eyes and twitching her tail. Her owners wonder if she actually understands what is happening on the screen.

We all know about cats and their curiosity. What is of interest to the cat in this case is the motion on the screen. People and cars and all sorts of things race about and mouths move in all kinds of interesting ways during close-ups.

Some cats will keep going around behind the TV set to see what's happening there. This seems to indicate that they realize that the motion is in a box. You will find that if you turn off the sound she will remain entranced by the motion alone.

A gentle, three-year-old collie who rarely barks at passersby or even at guests who come into the garden and up to her owner's door is driven to a state of wild barking by the mail carrier, the paper boy and the electric meter reader. Why is this?

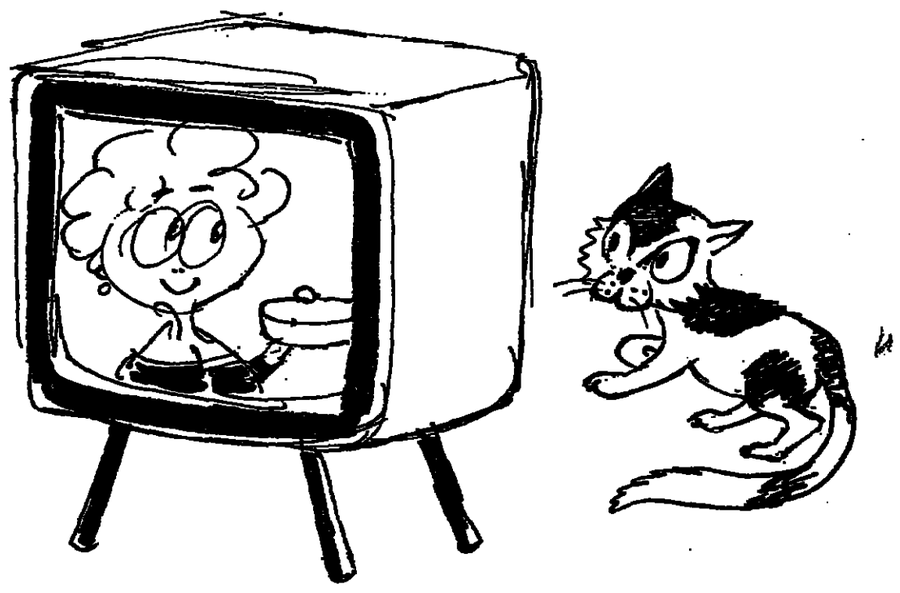
From the dog's viewpoint it is really quite simple. These people, particularly the mail carrier and the meter reader, come right up to the house and tamper with the post box and the meter without ringing the door bell like normal visitors. The dog has every reason to look upon them as suspicious characters.

As for the paper delivery boy, what is a dog to think of someone who comes right up to his garden gate and actually throws something at the house?

In any case, you only have these three "public enemies" to contend with. Thirty years ago there was also the milkman, the bakery boy, the dry cleaner's delivery, the laundry delivery and even the ice man. In those days, a dog really had a job fending off "intruders."

Actually, most of the things our animals do make quite good sense if we try to look at the matter through their eyes.

My cat watches me put leftovers into the refrigerator and, if it happens to be something she likes, will sit for a very long time staring wistfully at the refrigerator door. Apparently, experience has taught her that when designated prey goes into a hole, it eventually comes out again, and she just wants to be prepared.



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ECI, Tadiran to merge in share swap

By Jerusalem Post Staff

ECI Telecom and Tadiran Telecommunications yesterday announced the signing of an agreement in principle for their much-anticipated merger in a share swap that will make a company with annual revenues of $1 billion annually.

The merger of two Petah Tikva-based companies, the country's two largest telecommunications firms, will be carried out through a share swap that will give Tadiran Telecommunications stock holders one ECI share for every 1.79 shares of Tadiran.

The transaction, which is expected to be implemented by the end of October, values the companies' stock at a 17.5 percent premium to the average market value over the last 60 days.

The merger was considered only a matter of time after Koor, which owns Tadiran Telecommunications, a subsidiary of Tadiran Ltd., bought the controlling interest in ECI in February in a $295m. deal with Claridge and Clal.

ECI CEO David Rubner said the deal would enable a growth of revenue "more rapidly that would have been possible independently, both in our existing businesses and in new markets.

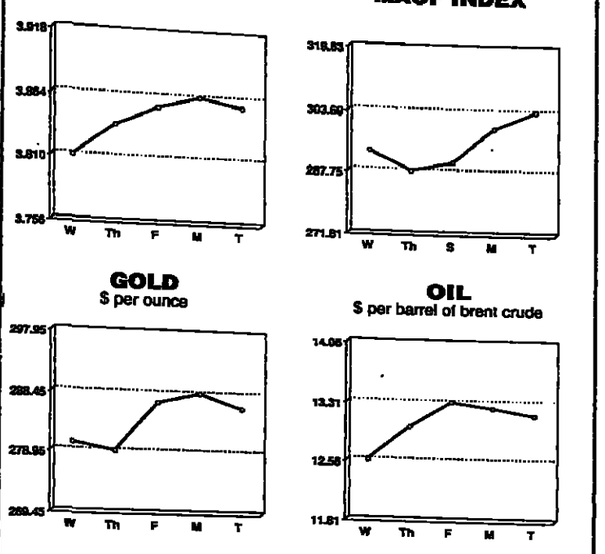
"The fact that our headquarters are across the street from each other... will allow us to rapidly integrate our two companies, improve our operations, benefit our customers, and continue to develop new technologies in a timely and cost effective manner."

Haim Rosen, CEO of Tadiran Telecommunications, said the deal would enable Tadiran to benefit from ECI's international marketing organization.

Gilad Alper, an analyst at Zannex Securities, said the deal was excellent for both companies, and especially for ECI since it was not able to grow much more internally. According to Alper, there was a minimal overlap in products and the deal enables a synergy of the two companies' technologies for a "full range of solutions."

He said the deal was especially reasonable for ECI, which spent $350m. in stock value and "obtained missing technology for a small price."

BUSINESS *in brief*



MedSim buys US company

MedSim, a Kfar Sava-based medical simulation technology company, announced yesterday that it has acquired a US company, Eagle Simulation, for $2m. in cash and options for purchase of shares in MedSim. The company said the move would make it the world's largest supplier of medical simulation products and services.

Eagle, a pioneer in field of medical simulation, was bought last year by the MATCO Group. The purchased was financed by shareholders in MedSim, who as a result increased their stake in MedSim.

MedSim, whose product is the UltraSim ultrasound simulator, was established four years ago by experts in aviation simulation technology, medicine, and education. In 1997, the company began sales, which amounted to $2m. Sales this year are expected to amount to $3.5m., with another $3m. from Eagle. Sales next year are expected to reach $8m. The company is owned by its management, venture capital funds – including Medica Investments, Yozma, Etgar, Arison Investments – and other investors here and in the US. *Nina Gilbert*

20,000 checks bounce a day

Some 20,000 checks bounce every day in the country, according to Business Data Israel. Yet, Ayal Yanai, BDI's managing-director, said yesterday that the number of bounced checks declined in the past few months from earlier in the year, as a result of the slowdown in the economy. Eighty percent of the checks are from private customers for relatively small sums, while 20% of the checks are from businesses, he said. Yanai was speaking at a Kibbutz Industries Association meeting on how to improve collection of debts.

Oded Barish, general manager of the association, said they were also suffering from the problems, have 10,000 bounced checks a month. Since the beginning of the year, there has been an increase of 20 percent in late payments to the factories. *Nina Gilbert*

Trade restriction list revised

The Industry and Trade Ministry yesterday announced an update in its import restriction lists, resulting in the formal removal of top-level trade restrictions with Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Burundi, Papua New Guinea and Chad.

The list includes those countries with which Israel does not have diplomatic ties, including Syria, Iraq, Iran, and Libya. It also includes those countries whose imports are only approved in special cases, such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan.

At the end of 1997, the ministry decided to move a number of countries, including Indonesia and Malaysia, to a second-level list, which includes those countries with which Israel has trade relations, but from which imports are allowed only via ministry permit.

These countries include those which do not belong to the World Trade Organization and those which have not signed trade agreements with Israel. This includes most countries of the CIS and Yugoslavia and a number of countries in Africa and the Far East.

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky said he was aiming to remove most of these countries from this list and to sign free trade accords with them, especially those with great export potential for Israel. Countries to be removed soon from the list, with the signing of trade agreements, are Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. *Nina Gilbert*

Israel, Turkey to hold trade meeting

Israel and Turkey are to hold a joint economic committee meeting in December, visiting Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky agreed during a meeting yesterday. Sharansky said Turkey is a very important trade partner, due to its size, geographic proximity and historic ties with Israel. Sharansky said the two economies complement each other, and the two countries have similar characteristics, as they are both Westernized democracies.

The ministry and the Israel Export Institute sponsored an Israel-Turkey business seminar on Monday, where ministry director-general Dov Mishor said the countries have great potential to boost trade in the areas of high-tech, medical equipment, telecommunications, and ecology, agricultural technology, water management. Participants in the meeting said that there is also great potential for cooperation in projects in third countries in the region and in Asia.

Israel and Turkey signed a free trade accord in March 1996 which took effect in May 1997. In the first half of the year, exports to Turkey totaled $173m. and imports were $262m., with a 26% increase in bilateral trade compared with the same period in 1997. *Nina Gilbert*



We've got the power

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert (right) and Israel Electric Corporation managing director Rafi Peled attend yesterday's official opening of the city's new substation on Derech Beit Lehem.

Romania okays funding for Elbit trainers

By STEVE RODAN

Romania has approved $21 million in funding for the initiation of a program, led by Elbit Systems Ltd., to upgrade jet trainers for pilots learning to fly its Elbit-upgraded MiG-21 fleet, company executives said yesterday.

The program aims to transform the IAR-99 trainer into the lead system for the MiG-21 Lancer and to acquire 24 trainers by 2001. The fighter is scheduled to participate in the flying display at the British aerospace exhibition at Farnborough this week.

Elbit executives said they have teamed with the Romanian company Avioane Craiova SA to implement the upgrade program. The trainer will be given advanced avionics suite with communication, navigation, and identification systems similar to the MiG-21 and F-16 fighters. They will also acquire electronic warfare suites, video, and debriefing stations.

The executives said they are preparing to launch a production line for the upgrade program. Avioane Craiova is the manufacturer of the IAR-99 trainer and has also designed the IAR-93 aircraft.

Elbit has several upgrade programs on Russian and Western jet fighters.

Airbus, Boeing split $6.7b. in orders

Airbus Industrie and Boeing Co. won orders for 71 jetliners worth a collective $6.7 billion, splitting what analysts say could be one of the industry's last big boons for several years.

Airbus will sell up to 10 long-range A340-500 jets and six A320 short-haul planes to International Lease Finance Corp., an airplane leasing company, and as many as 16 A340s to Emirates Airlines in orders worth $4.3b.

Boeing won an order worth about $2.7b. to sell up to 39 of its 737, 767 and 777 jets to the Brazilian carrier Varig.

After a three-year surge in aircraft orders fueled by buoyant economies, industry executives warn growth is slowing because of recessions in Asian nations and slowing economies in the US and elsewhere.

Most of the jets won't be delivered until after 2002, a sign airlines expect a slump.

"The next three to four years is not the time for huge orders of aircraft," said Chris Partridge, associate director of aviation finance at Deutsche Bank in London. "This market has peaked and the Asian crisis is starting to spread."

ILFC, a unit of American International Group Inc., said it bet its order on a buoyant air traffic market by 2002 that would include "a strong recovery in Asia."

Regional traffic in that market has plunged amid an economic slump.

(Bloomberg)

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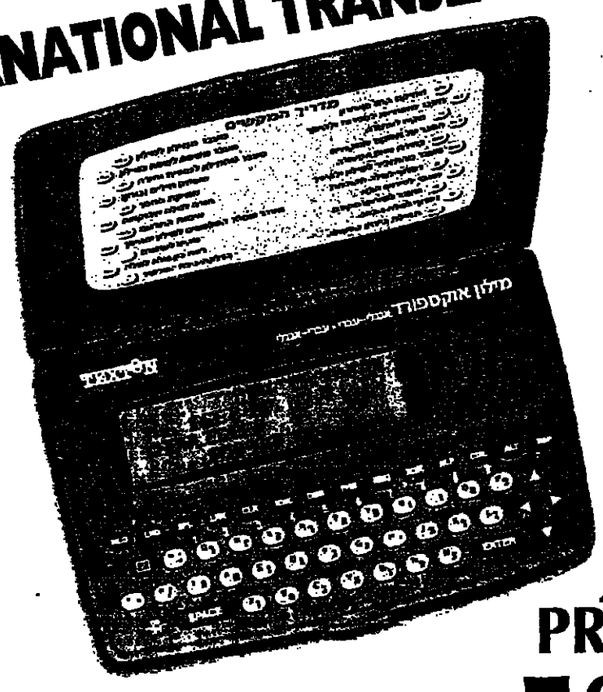
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THE BUSINESS SCENE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN



Usually it's her famous son, entertainer Gidi Gov, who's in the limelight. But last week, (from right) Tzipa Gov, along with Yehoshua Vardon and Tony Morgenstern, became the focus of attention. The Tel Aviv-Jaffa Tourist Association presented each of the three with a special award in recognition of their services to tourism. Gov, one of the founders of the association, has since 1963 been involved in promoting tourism to Israel in general, and for the past 11 years to Tel Aviv in particular. Vardon held key positions in the tourism industry over a span of 38 years. Since retiring from the executive of Shalamit Gardens Hotels in 1995, he has worked as a volunteer in the Tel Aviv Tourist Information Office. Morgenstern is the founder of the Voluntary Tourist Service, which recruited 500 volunteers who over many years made thousands of visitors to Israel feel welcome through home hospitality and other tourist services.

Executives of Lucy Borchard Lines, its partners and subsidiaries will fly into Israel from different parts of the world next week to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the company's operations in Israel. Founded in Hamburg in 1895 by Lucy and Richard Borchard, the shipping line's activities expanded to many ports around the globe. Following Richard Borchard's death in 1930, his wife took over the running of the company. Her son Kurt, who died in February 1997 at the age of 89, sailed the first of the Borchard vessels to Haifa in 1933, thus beginning an uninterrupted relationship between Borchard Lines and Israel.

With the rise of Nazism, the company began transporting Jews out of Germany, and it also transferred its headquarters from Hamburg to London. Many of the Jews saved by the Borchards received training from them to be seamen. As such they were able to secure permits to live in Palestine, where as professional sailors, they were able to obtain work. The Borchards later trained sailors for Israel's first fleet.

Today, a fourth generation Borchard, Nofar Yehiel, 25, is operations manager in the Borchard Lines Israel office in Tel Aviv. She is the first of her generation to work in the family-owned business, but will be joined soon by at least one of her siblings.

Zvi Eckstein, a professor of economics at Tel Aviv University, has been appointed chairman of the investments committee of the Bank Leumi Provident Funds, replacing Professor Ben-Zion Zylberfarb, who stepped down from the post following his appointment as director-general of the Finance Ministry.

Professor Avi Dagani, joint general manager of the Geocartography Research Institute, is the new strategic marketing consultant for Israel Railways.

Francine Dadai, a 23-year veteran of Bank Hapoalim, has been appointed general manager of Pe'ilim, the Bank Hapoalim subsidiary that manages investment portfolios. She is rotating with Ya'acov Rosen, who will vacate the post and take over her job as general manager of Financial Holdings. Rosen has been with Bank Hapoalim since 1995.

Michael Milken, Act II

The brilliant felon who revolutionized Wall Street has built up a $4b. commercial educational empire with which he plans to change the face of the American school system

LOS ANGELES – Here at the Century Plaza Hotel, where corporate raiders once paid homage to a junk-bond king, hundreds of eager schoolteachers now await an audience with the same man: Michael Milken.

Unlike those financiers, these teachers have little interest in the old Milken, the Los Angeles native who revolutionized Wall Street and served time in prison for securities fraud.

They are here for the new Milken, the cutting-edge educator who in just two years has built a commercial educational empire already worth an estimated $4 billion. Just like the old days, he doesn't disappoint.

After Milken appears and outlines why human capital is growing ever more valuable, the teachers applaud sharply.

Ready or not, America, the curtain is rising on Milken's second act, one that if successful, could restructure another area of society, generate huge profits and just maybe turn the convicted bond dealer into a hero.

He has already been busy at rehabilitating his image. One of his foundations funds cancer research and another has awarded nearly $30 million to individual teachers. His Milken Institute, a Santa Monica think tank, does research into social trends.

Now Milken aims to ring his school bell for 1 million American youths, representing one of the most potent and audacious efforts in private education. Even while his stated intent is to help public education by demonstrating new methods, his success would undoubtedly expose more of its flaws.

Milken can make this work only if parents are willing to turn over their children to a brilliant felon who says that he has come up with a better way to improve the educational system. That claim, say the skeptics, has yet to be proved.

Quietly and carefully, Milken has built Knowledge Universe, a so far mysterious company designed to provide "cradle to grave" learning tools. With Knowledge Universe, Milken, 52, hopes to become a dominant player in the growing business of education, which many on Wall Street compare to health care as the next growth industry.

In an interview, Milken said he hopes Knowledge Universe, or KU, can be a "model for the best education has to offer.

"We're creating a brand name in education, a series of brand names. I don't think anyone has tried to do it from birth to post-retirement. And the needs are greater than ever.... Our success will be in the execution."

Started with about $500m. invested jointly with his brother Lowell Milken, and Lawrence Ellison, billionaire chairman of software giant Oracle Corp, the company owns a day-care chain with more than 250 locations. It has a minority stake in a string of elementary and junior high schools. In addition, it owns an educational toy company and the United Kingdom's largest corporate training firm.

Some plans Milken has for Knowledge Universe include:

– owning a string of commercial private schools nationwide that could teach as much as 2 percent of the elementary market, estimated by analysts at 1 million children in the next five to 10 years;

– offering textbooks for free on the Internet, in hopes that a free book would spark someone to attend Knowledge University, an on-line college that will offer classes from top professors;

– producing a series of high-tech toys, books and even television shows;

– bringing algebra concepts and foreign language lessons to the preschool or kindergarten level;

– setting national standards for education through new technology in the classroom.

IF ITS current growth rate continues, Knowledge Universe has the potential to be a giant of the education industry, analysts say. But Milken believes it is essential for the firm to be one of just several dominant players in the growing industry, admitting "I can't do it alone."



Milken hopes his Knowledge Universe, can be a 'model for the best education has to offer.' (Reuters)

Public education, Milken says, suffers from antiquated facilities, inadequate investment in technology and too many social problems. But Milken carefully avoids the issue of teachers unions, a prime target for many conservative critics.

About $600b. is spent each year in America on education, more than on national defense, more than on Social Security. Yet the massive amounts of money aren't producing well-educated children, many believe.

A January poll found that a large majority of employers and college professors say that a high school diploma is no guarantee that a graduate can read, write or do basic math.

The commercial area of education, including day care, educational materials and private schools, is a fragmented backwater of tiny ma and pa companies ripe for consolidation through mergers.

Milken's approach to education is intense: the best is possible. Algebra can be taught in kindergarten, calculus to fifth-graders and preschoolers can begin learning second languages. All classrooms must have access to computers and the latest technology. Everyone can be smarter.

Analysts and Milken are expecting strong growth in the market for private schools in the next few years, where 5 million children attend parochial and commercial schools – about 10% of the market.

The tuition at Milken's private schools varies depending on what market they are in, but prices are "competitive," executives said. According to the US Department of Education's most recent data from 1994, the nationwide average cost of a non-parochial, private elementary school is $4,693 a year. For secondary schools, the cost jumps to $9,525.

If successful, Milken's schools could be a testing ground for learning techniques, new technology or other products, like phonic toys, that could eventually be used in public schools, he said.

"Long term, our real contribution would be in curriculum that would be available (for sale) to all," Milken said. "The advantage of speed in a for-profit environment, is that if we want to try something, we can just try it," he said. "If it works and it's successful, it can be implemented immediately, not over a decade."

And the profits for Milken appear to be real.

(Los Angeles Times)

Milken's image problem

LOS ANGELES – Even by privately owned company standards, former junk-bond king Michael Milken's Knowledge Universe venture has kept a particularly low profile. It didn't have listed phone numbers for its Burlingame, Calif., headquarters or for offices in Los Angeles until earlier this year. And it was only in July that Knowledge Universe – Milken's bid to revolutionize education in America – began offering promotional materials, brochures and a Web site.

The low-key approach is part of the strategy, Milken said. One of the biggest hurdles Knowledge Universe is likely to face is Milken himself.

The verdict on a rehabilitated Milken, jailed as part of his role as a junk-bond dealer, is still out.

Some things, however, can't be disputed, such as the importance of the junk-bond market he helped create or his imaginative, visionary quality.

Neither can the current health of many of the companies and thousands of jobs his financings helped create, such as Turner Broadcasting and Fox Television.

Also undisputed: Milken-financed corporate raiders caused thousands of layoffs and pulled apart some of America's oldest companies. Milken pleaded guilty in 1990 to six felony securities violations and spent two years in prison. He once made $500 million in one year, and even after disgorging illegal profits, he is still worth about $700m., according to *Forbes* magazine. A federal ban prohibits him from ever earning money by acting as a broker or investment adviser, and just this year he paid a $47m. fine for violating those terms.

For some, that's all they need to know.

"There will be a lot of suspicions about Mike Milken teaching the youth of America anything," said Stan Lepeak, a vice president with the META Group, a technology consultant in Stamford, Conn. "It's a big leap of faith for Mike & Co. to come in and think they can fix America's educational system. I think it's visions of godhood. After being vilified in the 1980s, he wants to go down in history as a savior in the next decade." Others are even more skeptical.

"You don't get convicted felons and ask them to head up educational enterprises," said Joseph Carrabino, the outspoken and conservative candidate for California superintendent of public instruction in 1994 and former president of the State Board of Education. "You wonder what he's really up to. He's always making a buck."

Milken believes people care more about the product – in this case education – than his past.

"I think anyone who is a public figure always has issues," Milken said. "I don't think good products are related to individuals."

Joan Buckley, associate director for educational issues with the American Federation of Teachers, one of the America's largest teachers unions, agrees with Milken.

"America's parents are interested in one thing: the best possible school for their kids – how safe are they and how good is the program," she said. "I don't think they care who is doing it."

"If he's effective, and I think he will be, the world will be a better place," said Theodore R. Mitchell, who just resigned as dean of the graduate school of education at the University of California, Los Angeles.

(Los Angeles Times)

MUTUAL FUNDS

Fund's name	unit cost	redemption price	monthly yield (%)	yield 1998 (%)	NIS assets (millions)
FLEXIBLE					
Abir	223.80	223.14	- 1.26	+1.31	18.4
Ader Flexible	108.18	108.88	- 0.29	+6.32	27.5
Afikim Flexible	—	—	—	—	14.1
Ahrayut Flexible	466.99	461.67	- 1.49	-8.00	2.4
Alomot Flexible	107.28	105.45	- 0.58	—	11.0
Analyst Diversified	778.57	758.36	- 2.09	+4.81	67.2
Apex Flexible	177.64	176.99	- 0.67	+ 14.05	40.3
Andmedes	97.84	95.77	- 1.26	+2.09	1.3
Avuka	1882.56	1876.90	- 0.91	-1.27	5.2
Bloch Rotstein Flexible	217.32	213.04	- 1.98	+3.08	30.3
Clal Flexible	1127.49	1123.56	- 2.06	-1.83	4.6
Dikla Maron	258.38	256.48	- 1.54	-2.72	29.7
Dikla Makav	178.55	178.03	- 0.55	-1.02	10.4
Dikla Moked	3418.09	3393.11	- 1.31	+1.64	75.1
Dovrat Shrem Flexible	161.00	157.66	- 1.68	- 11.42	29.0
Emda Ati	3839.34	3792.39	- 2.57	-3.65	29.2
Epsilon Flexible	161.45	160.92	- 1.29	+3.55	12.1
Evergreen Flexible	116.60	115.66	- 1.91	+4.89	7.3
Excellence Flexible	3201.69	3157.07	- 0.54	+9.16	7.9
Igud Bonds	107.40	106.91	- 0.14	+2.55	8.2
Igud Flexible	167.96	166.81	- 1.04	+3.90	18.0
Igud Shildit	142.96	142.96	+ 0.68	+9.57	296.0
Ilanot 30 Plus	142.15	139.69	- 2.40	-8.72	2.8
Ilanot 90	254.14	249.66	- 1.21	-0.47	24.2
Ilanot Shildim Atid	2547.16	2534.49	—	—	4.2
Ilanot Tidher	3304.27	3287.75	- 0.84	+1.73	72.1
Khun Flexible	121.77	120.68	- 1.33	-0.15	6.1
Lahak Duhlat	752.16	739.14	- 1.40	+0.85	89.3
Lamashkia	—	—	—	—	5.5
Lapid	1552.50	1552.50	- 1.53	-3.25	5.4
Maofim Bonds	105.85	104.82	+ 0.22	—	8.1
Maofim Flexible	151.73	149.03	- 1.66	+8.43	11.4
Maritime Flexible Fund	97.75	95.94	- 3.48	+5.99	12.6
Meitav Flexible	163.71	162.00	- 2.01	+3.85	3.1
Models Flexible	107.43	105.29	- 0.32	-5.08	8.6
Models Tauza	97.23	96.02	- 0.22	+1.38	4.9
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Noga	936.49	924.51	+ 0.11	+8.42	47.5
Omer Pekan	190.41	186.98	- 0.91	-7.55	19.8
Otzar Flexible	104.05	102.26	- 1.65	+2.94	4.6
Pia Hayovel	226.04	223.75	- 1.73	+ 11.84	54.3
Pia Kala	956.53	951.77	- 0.49	+5.85	302.7
Psagot Gamish	543.73	543.73	- 1.91	-0.37	139.9
Psagot Megama	335.91	333.24	- 3.71	-0.13	77.8
Quantum	100.72	99.45	+ 0.09	-1.85	0.2
Ramco Flexible	174.95	172.57	- 0.52	+2.48	6.0
Saar Flexible	227.25	224.28	- 0.45	+3.29	3.9
Saar Pekan	204.12	203.52	- 0.70	+6.10	198.9
Sigma Flexible	94.90	93.92	- 2.07	-5.93	8.2
Sivan	265.38	261.74	- 0.34	+8.06	71.4
Telescope	116.65	116.33	- 0.15	-7.64	1.5
Yisud Flexible	101.89	100.91	- 1.46	+1.14	6.1
Yesodot	3244.34	3186.96	- 1.65	+5.41	34.0
Zeller Flexible	82.04	81.24	- 1.07	- 12.82	3.8
Zion Flexible	14159.06	14092.63	- 4.27	-0.08	10.0
SHARES					
Adir Pekan	119.46	117.34	- 3.45	+2.11	37.2
Afikim Shares	—	—	—	—	14.5
Ahrayut Oil & Shares	139.57	136.73	+ 9.44	- 11.29	1.4
Ahrayut Real Estate	215.07	210.72	- 0.72	-4.82	2.2
Ahrayut Shares	309.42	303.92	- 1.03	-7.57	2.7
Alomot Growth	93.32	91.71	- 1.25	—	1.2
Analyst Aggressive	159.72	156.02	- 2.20	+4.63	55.4
Analyst Equity	1242.92	1213.99	- 2.33	+4.48	143.9
Analyst Industries	387.05	378.05	- 2.11	+4.58	57.5
Apex Shares	112.04	111.50	- 0.95	+ 11.57	16.4
Atlas Pekan	—	—	—	—	29.2
Baron	208.45	207.78	- 2.61	-3.61	12.1
Bloch Rotstein Shares	111.49	109.35	- 2.24	+9.51	14.3
Capital Shares	91.90	90.81	- 1.20	-0.45	3.4
Chemical Pekan	121.67	119.52	- 2.33	+1.91	6.2
Clal Maof	238.18	237.49	- 0.77	-3.24	16.4
Clal Shares & Conv.	151.31	150.80	- 2.39	+1.89	2.3
Dikla Maagal	97.25	96.43	- 2.89	-6.63	12.1
Dikla Madad Maof	204.17	203.08	- 0.60	-2.23	67.9
Dikla Meretz	518.27	514.17	- 1.48	-1.75	67.3
Dikla Mifan	107.23	106.42	- 6.67	- 12.63	32.9
Dikla Migzar Finance	126.54	124.56	- 1.32	-0.20	31.0
Dikla Mikud 30	67.77	67.26	- 1.10	-7.37	33.0
Dikla Mivneh	358.56	355.75	- 0.56	-0.30	25.5
Dikla Mondial	—	—	—	—	13.3
Dikla Mor	1505.67	1484.04	- 2.29	-4.11	87.0
Dovrat Shrem 100	102.82	100.72	- 1.71	-9.00	16.6
Dovrat Shrem Yater	115.67	113.30	- 3.74	-9.10	12.7
Emda Export	82.72	81.88	- 2.27	-3.19	8.9
Emda High Tech	—	—	—	—	7.7
Emda Maof	212.44	210.81	- 0.44	-2.27	32.3
Emda Paz	179.83	178.00	- 2.56	-1.94	11.7
Emda Shalhevet	160.70	159.50	- 1.68	-0.54	13.3
Emda T-A 100	1945.51	1924.80	- 1.97	-4.21	48.2
Emda Yeter	1550.89	1534.48	- 3.92	-7.12	21.5
Epsilon 36	107.73	107.35	- 1.55	+6.26	33.5
Epsilon Shares	189.16	187.47	- 1.33	+2.14	14.5
Epsilon Technologies	—	—	—	—	11.3
Erez Pekan	349.75	343.47	- 1.41	+4.16	155.4
Esh	556.05	547.17	- 1.08	-8.98	2.1
Evergreen High Tech	—	—	—	—	8.9
Evergreen Shares	155.90	154.51	- 1.72	-3.51	17.0
Excellence Agresive	261.77	258.75	- 3.19	+8.57	9.2
Excellence Shares	630.35	626.58	- 2.10	+8.27	8.8
Eyal Shares	132.87	132.87	- 2.25	-1.33	6.8
Gal	120.97	119.42	- 0.34	+4.30	14.2
Hon Pekan	107.84	105.74	- 2.42	-4.97	54.0
Igud Maof	93.00	92.81	- 0.36	-2.54	6.2
Igud Shares	147.22	146.22	- 0.73	-0.27	8.9
Igud Yeter	104.62	104.03	- 1.15	-4.01	10.0
Ilanot Caramim	162.92	162.06	- 3.84	-2.21	85.8
Ilanot Communication	107.15	106.56	- 3.18	-1.36	59.9
Ilanot Dekel	3058.69	3042.80	- 1.55	-2.87	94.7
Ilanot Finance	92.72	92.22	- 2.85	-2.82	13.3
Ilanot Globe	—	—	—	—	11.4
Ilanot Maof	201.31	200.37	- 0.45	-2.00	57.5
Ilanot Nadlan	1487.39	1475.73	- 0.70	—	30.4
Ilanot Nimrezet	76.54	75.94	- 3.25	- 11.32	5.3
Ilanot Shares	4856.82	4771.40	- 2.39	-5.07	8.8
Ilanot Shchakim	53.81	52.85	- 3.05	-8.57	14.8
Ilanot Shavak	922.24	906.02	- 1.48	-0.68	112.7
Ilanot T-A 100	2729.79	2715.54	- 1.26	-2.24	74.4
Israel America	—	—	—	—	0.9
Kohav Pekan	171.74	171.18	- 2.14	+3.09	102.9
Koor Money Market	136.02	136.02	+ 0.21	+9.49	382.2
Koor Shares	90.99	89.85	- 2.54	-3.23	8.6
Lahak Agresivit Plus	77.18	75.80	- 1.84	- 13.39	17.3
Lahak Ankor	809.80	807.60	- 1.87	-4.81	34.0
Lahak Dividends	331.28	330.37	- 1.35	+7.40	70.2
Lahak Menayot 30	92.63	92.63	- 0.52	—	37.6
Lahak Menayot Yeter	108.46	107.61	- 5.74	-4.43	38.5
Lahak Nadlan	133.51	131.16	- 0.43	+1.77	30.4
Lahak TA-Wall Street	—	—	—	—	15.5
Lahak Tor 100	432.44	424.82	- 0.92	-1.02	75.8
Lahak Yatsu	73.12	72.92	- 2.12	-2.00	32.9
Lahak Zamir	792.70	790.33	- 2.62	-2.96	57.2
Maale Maof Pekan	182.37	179.16	- 1.14	-4.38	63.5
Magic	272.96	268.13	- 1.52	+2.78	8.4
Meitav High Tech	—	—	—	—	1.6
Meitav Options	44.57	43.85	- 3.07	+5.41	10.7
Meitav Shares	206.80	204.67	- 1.25	+0.15	5.4
Meitav Teuza	111.86	110.66	- 3.07	+0.94	5.3
Mercazit Caram Maniv	63.88	63.48	- 2.97	-4.33	1.9
Mercazit Maof	188.49	187.97	- 0.74	-4.24	2.1
Mercazit TA 100	251.33	250.56	- 0.80	-8.86	2.6
Meritngall Dynamic	106.85	106.76	+ 0.25	+6.92	15.4
Nechis Continental	56.06	55.05	- 3.10	-3.94	12.8
Nesua Shares	444.14	441.71	- 0.28	-1.41	5.4
NII T-A 100	1043.47	1029.99	- 0.17	+0.99	20.5
Omega	119.45	117.33	+ 1.29	-3.94	1.7
Otzar Foreign Int. Par.	149.82	149.82	- 1.20	+5.67	2.4
Otzar Shares	116.61	114.56	- 1.88	+2.83	6.3
Otzar Yater	85.28	83.80	- 2.66	-4.36	4.4
Pekan T-A 100	160.88	159.24	- 0.75	-1.17	62.1
Pia 2000	90.64	89.04	- 3.20	-2.57	22.1
Pia Bdolach T-A 100	1012.99	995.02	+ 0.09	-0.25	179.2
Pia Manof	133.60	131.20	- 3.58	+1.39	42.6
Pia Maof	195.84	192.38	- 0.87	-1.74	92.7
Pia Michlol	845.14	830.28	- 0.48	+6.92	127.0
Pia Odem	1304.17	1281.07	- 0.39	+8.81	185.5
Pia Olamit	—	—	—	—	30.1
Pia Yahalom	1129.33	1109.39	- 0.76	+6.90	66.9
Pia Zimuk	66.33	65.16	- 2.66	+4.31	38.3
Pritza	—	—	—	—	0.5
Psagot 20	84.91	83.40	- 2.14	—	140.8
Psagot Al	79.06	77.66	- 6.03	-8.75	27.3
Psagot Focus	109.56	106.52	- 2.57	-1.49	87.8
Psagot High Tech	—	—	—	—	40.7
Psagot Mibtzat Lashalom	134.55	132.17	- 3.27	+3.62	39.3
Psagot Menayot	844.30	839.62	- 3.13	+0.55	157.2
Psagot T-A 100	379.67	377.56	- 1.56	-3.23	215.8
Psagot Yeter	188.27	184.82	- 4.14	+0.06	49.4
Raam 90	124.40	121.76	- 3.80	- 17.06	5.3
Simodan Shares & Conv.	74.07	72.92	- 2.50	- 10.17	0.5
Singer Barnea Financial	116.58	114.56	- 1.10	+2.11	0.7
Singer Barnea Shmura	142.57	141.94	- 1.51	-0.04	2.1
Tamir Fishman Tsmiha	—	—	—	—	10.8
Tsuot Sufa	152.07	151.24	- 0.50	+5.31	22.5
Yaar	38.76	38.31	+ 1.11	- 23.13	0.2
Zik	336.16	335.22	- 2.31	-4.79	3.2
Zion Shares	141.21	140.35	- 1.43	-5.70	3.0
Zion Yeter	84.96	84.84	- 4.72	- 10.51	4.0
STATE BONDS					
Ahrayut State Bonds	465.85	459.96	+ 0.34	+5.37	4.5
Almog Pekan	291.35	286.21	+ 0.32	+2.28	137.4
Analyst Government Bonds	420.16	414.76	+ 0.32	+5.84	31.2
Clali Dotan	1292.26	1288.49	+ 0.87	+4.43	5.0
Clali State Bonds	492.74	491.39	+ 0.08	+2.82	8.8
Dikla Maron	6686.48	6518.17	+ 0.19	+6.36	34.1
Dikla Mivtah	1798.40	1764.74	+ 0.06	+7.06	35.7
Ducas	268.05	261.42	+ 0.26	+6.68	14.0
Emda Government Bond	1138.59	1129.98	+ 0.18	+3.35	55.5
Emda Leshem	1485.89	1481.02	+ 0.12	+2.20	28.8
Emda Sella	1451.86	1441.28	+ 0.13	+5.83	50.4
Epsilon Govi Bonds	216.38	215.68	+ 0.51	+8.76	18.2
Geva	430.87	425.63	+ 0.18	+5.58	88.7
Hila Pekan	572.17	572.17	+ 0.12	+6.96	269.2
Ilanot Egoz	1228.31	1219.05	+ 0.47	+7.90	52.0
Ilanot Tapuah	707.26	703.70	+ 0.29	+3.19	20.3
Ilanot Tapuz	1129.02	1120.76	+ 0.12	+4.62	106.1
Lahak Etroni	577.97	568.18	+ 0.21	+2.26	63.9
Lahak Shahaf	152.13	149.51	- 0.23	+6.21	53.9
Lahak Shunit	720.96	718.40	+ 0.01	+7.81	105.5
Maritime Government Bond	163.42	161.19	- 0.52	+7.43	14.5
Meitav Gov't Bonds	128.36	127.37	+ 0.70	+8.46	10.2
Mekorit Pekan	126.08	123.87	+ 0.56	+5.48	18.6
Mercazit Gov't Bonds	163.76	162.51	+ 0.41	+6.03	6.4
Nesua Gov't Bonds	1429.35	1423.17	+ 0.10	+7.46	37.7
Otzar Gov't Bonds	161.32	158.58	+ 0.34	+5.91	14.5
Pia Conv' Bonds 50	259.01	257.75	- 0.99	—	87.3
Pia Tarshish	143.58	141.04	+ 0.23	+6.27	248.2
Pia Zamid	4989.26	4901.40	+ 0.26	+5.33	157.2
Psagot Agach	617.75	606.84	- 0.03	+8.41	55.6
Psagot Maala	460.82	457.18	+ 0.26	+7.56	51.5
Psagot Madad	595.50	594.99	- 0.00	+5.97	88.1
Shavit Pekan	757.74	744.50	+ 0.64	+7.48	154.3
Sigma Gov't Bonds	139.64	137.95	+ 0.53	+2.75	1.8
Yaara Pekan	619.59	608.77	+ 0.34	+5.42	73.3
Yavul Pekan	782.80	780.61	+ 0.14	+5.86	185.0
Ziv	653.73	645.49	+ 0.47	+8.24	40.8
Zohar	538.57	531.85	+ 0.28	+5.86	39.8
COMPANY BONDS					
Afikim Bonds	—	—	—	—	41.3
Ahrayut Bonds	202.53	199.03	+ 0.11	+2.38	5.1
Amirim	135.87	134.85	+ 0.38	+4.12	24.5
Analyst Corporate Bonds	298.96	293.11	- 0.32	+4.27	108.0
Analyst Money Market	163.72	163.28	+ 0.50	+7.68	15.3
Apex Tsua	148.72	148.18	+ 0.31	+ 11.48	66.7
Bloch Rotstein Bonds	171.52	169.12	+ 0.14	+8.26	15.8
Bond	164.85	163.55	- 0.50	+1.23	9.8
Capital Bonds	158.72	158.84	- 0.05	+7.33	11.3
Clal Company Debentures	213.96	213.33	- 0.51	+4.24	3.0
Clal Gen' Bond Rating	107.06	106.75	+ 0.05	—	15.0
Clal Zmina	183.80	183.80	+ 0.46	+7.93	57.5
Dikla Maayan	995.02	987.81	+ 0.22	+6.58	52.1
Dikla Magen Plus	105.85	105.85	+ 0.23	—	354.1
Dikla Maskoret Plus	151.12	151.12	+ 0.29	+8.61	402.6
Dikla Meimad	484.81	481.10	+ 0.32	+ 11.20	28.9
Dikla Mirvah	619.36	614.60	+ 0.27	+0.40	23.4
Dikla Mivhar	604.13	598.77	+ 0.32	+7.99	35.9
Dikla Nigvan	2073.25	2058.17	+ 0.19	+3.69	90.2
Dovrat Shrem Bonds	173.06	170.43	- 0.13	+2.54	55.9
Emda Dynamit Magen	110.83	110.83	+ 0.04	+5.81	52.0
Emda Halamish	162.36	160.78	+ 0.37	+5.87	16.4
Emda Hamara	1138.03	1126.44	- 0.95	-0.12	47.2
Emda Shikit	105.38	105.38	+ 0.28	+8.14	836.5
Epsilon Corp. Bonds	129.21	128.82	+ 0.53	+2.74	24.9
Epsilon Money Market	155.50	155.50	+ 0.27	+9.30	251.1
Evergreen Shkoola	160.35	159.51	- 0.40	+4.41	32.1
Excellence Bonds	2262.69	2232.81	+ 0.56	+ 10.23	14.5
Eyal Corporate Bonds	154.30	153.73	- 0.42	+2.23	6.5
Eyal Shotef	144.17	144.17	+ 0.31	+8.73	16.1
Guy	755.96	746.88	+ 0.66	+9.11	117.1
Hetz Pekan	626.54	626.54	+ 0.24	+8.12	*****
I.B.I Shkalim	155.21	155.21	+ 0.35	+9.63	179.0
Igud Magen Shikit	100.92	100.92	+ 0.09	—	18.1
Ilanot Agas	465.52	463.25	+ 0.14	+6.42	47.6
Ilanot Alon	2065.10	2039.95	+ 0.48	+7.41	41.8
Ilanot Armon	144.16	143.13	+ 0.14	+5.67	23.2
Ilanot Conv'bonds	3290.44	3273.07	- 0.39	+5.17	9.0
Ilanot Eshel	816.85	810.81	+ 0.07	+5.63	92.4
Ilanot Etrog	1112.87	1107.06	+ 0.20	+5.13	58.5
Ilanot Muvtahot	109.11	109.11	- 0.08	+4.92	48.4
Ilanot Oren	4194.41	4173.56	- 0.07	+3.73	132.3
Ilanot Orion	189.17	187.76	+ 0.42	+8.50	27.0
Ilanot Rimon	583.23	583.23	+ 0.29	+8.44	*****
Ilanot Shahar	248.79	247.58	+ 0.05	+6.54	35.0
Ilanot Shakad	241.93	240.21	+ 0.34	+6.26	39.2
Ilanot Shkoola	173.12	171.77	+ 0.17	+5.64	64.7
Keshet Pekan	460.30	452.19	- 0.43	+2.79	34.4
Koor Amnar Bonds	215.09	214.72	+ 0.68	—	20.4
Koor Dilerder	100.40	100.40	—	—	—
Lahak Conv. Bonds	249.11	249.11	- 0.28	+4.11	112.3
Lahak Magen 95%	158.55	158.55	- 0.18	+4.56	144.8
Lahak Yasoor	193.84	193.84	+ 0.26	+8.10	1763
Malkarit Pekan	340.52	334.55	+ 0.17	+6.78	25.0
Maritime Conv' Bonds	101.04	99.75	- 1.60	—	1.6
Meitav Corp. Conv. Bonds	155.60	154.38	- 0.18	+5.56	11.1
Meitav Money Market	122.83	122.83	+ 0.45	+8.44	14.4
Mercazit Conv. Bonds	477.05	475.64	- 0.37	+7.15	3.5
Models Shmura	113.11	111.94	+ 0.32	+3.76	14.0
Nesua Corporate Bonds	188.23	187.36	- 0.83	+2.98	11.5
Otzar Shkalim	137.58	137.56	+ 0.31	+8.50	118.6
Pia Halifin	555.08	555.08	+ 0.34	+8.38	638.6
Pia Mogenet	107.10	107.10	- 0.01	+4.94	84.9
Pia Ophir	629.26	627.40	- 0.01	+6.57	100.6
Pia Or	1168.02	1168.16	+ 0.01	+5.94	109.5
Pia Segula	289.59	284.54	+ 0.80	+8.47	48.8
Pia Shamir	1364.04	1340.23	+ 0.30	+3.60	1233
Pia Shkal

TEL AVIV 100 — LEADING SHARES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Africa Hotels	469	4.1
Africa Israel 0.1	19380	0.4
Africa Israel 1	193000	-0.6
Agis	2460	1.6
Al Paper Mills	14060	-0.3
Al-Rov	2420	0
Azorim	3070	2.6
Azorim Prop.	842	0.6
Bank Leumi 0.1	631	0.6
Baran	2770	-2.9
Bayside 1	45400	1.1
Bayside 5	2260000	0
Bezeq	1171	0.5
Blue Square	5180	0.4
Bromine	2270	-4.8
Clal Electronics	53000	4.3
Clal Industries	1933	1.4
Clal Insurance	3770	1.1
Clal Israel 1	9360	2
Dan Hotels	1138	0
Dankner	2040	4.9
Darban	790	1.9
Dead Sea Works 0.1	958	1.6
Delek 0.1	10770	-1.2
Delek Car	562	0.3
Development Mort	22700	0
Discount Bank	396	3
Discount Inv.	10660	4.4
Elbit 0.003	1013	1
Elbit Imaging	3180	-2.2
Elbit system	4600	1.7
Elco	2260	-1.3
Elco Industries	3450	0
Electra	18030	-0.2
Electra App	2980	2.8
Elite Ind. 1	2340	0
Elite Ind. 5	11160	0
Elron 0.003	5730	1.6
FIBI 5	3150	1.6
First Int'l 1	432	0.2
First Int'l 5	2280	1.8
First Int'l Mort	51000	0
Formula	9890	-2.9
General Bank	9520	-2.9
Granit Hacarmel	750	0
Hadarim Prop.	6500	0
Ham-Lec	1900	2.6
Hapoalim 0.1	574	2.1
Harel Mishmar 1	3250	1.5
Harel Mishmar 5	15950	0.2
I.D.B. Dev.	6780	3.8
I.D.B. Holdings	8780	3.6
I.D.C.	1910	0.5
Ind Bldgs	593	1.9
Israel Chemicals	415	0.5
Israel Corp. 1	34700	0
Isrotel	679	0
Jakora	779	0.5
JCT	35	0.3
JEC	1850	2.7
Kitan	371	-1.1
Knaanm	5350	3.7
Kopr	35500	1.7
Leader	1164	0
Leumi Insurance	215	0.9
Leumi Mortgage	78000	0.3
Linez	3270	4
Makhteshim Agan Ind.	896	0
Maman	857	4.7
Merab	4100	0.2
Mehadrin	13200	1.5
Mel Eden	1508	0.3
Melisseron	1090	0
Menorah Ins. 1	2150	0
Milamor	1470	0.1
Mishkan	65000	3.1
Mizrahi Inv.	8790	0
NATSWA REGULAR	1381	0.1
Nice Systems	11820	2.1
Osif	7420	-1.1
Orbit	950	-1.1
Ormat Industries	465	2.4
Osem Industries	1829	4.9
Petrochemicals	1960	1
Phoenix Ins. 1	5950	4.4
Poalim Inv.	10890	0.8
Prop & Bldg	34400	2.6
Safi Industries	1968	3.7
Solel Bone	4380	0.9
Supersol	1107	1.7
Tadiran	12310	0.2
Tambour	500	0
Telefnet	188500	0.3
Tempo	1880	13.2
Teva	14170	0.7
Urdan	290	1.3
Wire and Cables	1092	-2.1
Ytong Industries	950	0

KARAM — SMALL CAPITALIZATION TASE ISSUES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Boulous GD	387	-0.3
Solomon Holdings	414	0
Abjac	2	0
Aburdi	47.1	0
Ace-Spade	82.6	0
Ackerstein Bond B	169.4	0
Ackerstein Ind.	540	0
Ackerstein Zvi 1	1970	9.1
Ackerstein Zvi 5	9100	1.8
adakom	36.5	0
Adamim	347254	0
Adler	103	1
Adsha	138	0
Aduman	230	0
Africa Hotels Bond B	99	0
Africa Hotels Warrant 2	59	0
Africa Israel Hotels Bond A	138	-0.3
Afsek Ind	1090	0
Agis Warrant 3	14.7	-36.1
Agis Warrant 4	400	0
Agish Int'l	310	0
Agn Investments	520	5.8
Al-Ben	128	0
Al-Ben Bond A	120.5	-0.4
Alhe c2	99.5	0
Alhe w6	123	2.4
Alliance	590	0.3
Alonit	319	0
Alony-Hetz	459	0
Alony-Hetz Bond A	256	0
Alrod	205	0
Alrod Warrant 1	5.2	0
Alrow Bond D	83.7	0
Alrow Warrant 5	290	0
Alumr	222	0.5
Alumt	1535	-3
Amigar	180	0
Amitec	162	-5
Amnnel Warrant 1	48.8	0
Amrat	630	0
Ampa Investments	125400	-0.1
Analyst EMS	679	0
Angel Trade	92.4	0
Angel Trade Bond A	148.5	0
Angel Trade Bond B	118	0
Angel Trade Bond C	61	-0.8
Apcon	877	5.8
Apcon warrant 1	295	10.6
Applicom	2930	0
Aracell Warrant 2	417	-0.5
Arad	1508	-1.7
Arad Towels	1030	0
Arazim	110	0
Arazim Bond 1	248	0
Argaman	255	0
Ariadan	1080	0
Arpal	349	0
Aryt	118.4	0
Ashkelon Plywood	511	0
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 1	251	0
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 2	130	0
Ashtrom	387	-0.5
Ashtrom Bond A	156.5	-0.3
Ashot	268	0
Ashot Bond A	164	-1.5
Ashpara	84	0
Ashtrom Bond 1	174	0.3
Ashtrom Bond 2	154	0
Ashtrom Ind.	529	-0.6
Ashtrom Prop.	220	0
Astrom P Bond 1	95.4	0.1
Astrum p warrant b	30	5.7
Astrum Bond C	100.5	0
Astrum Warrant 2	45	0
Aston	85	0
Atmor	1899	0
ATX	194	-1
ATX Bond A	182.5	0.3
Atzmon	208	0
Aum	3450	0
Avarot	370	0.3
Avarot Bond A	184.5	0.4
Avarot Bond A	510	0
Averbuch Formica	319	-0.3
Avw	156.3	0
Avw Bond 1	93	0
Avw Bond 2	4.8	-4.2
Avner	92.9	0
Avnot Bond 2	89	0
Avnot Warrant 2	539	0
Avsalon	445	0
Azimuth	171.5	0
Azorim Properties Bond 3	499	2
Azorim Warrant 13	101.5	0.1
Azorim Warrant 5	579	0
Azorim Warrant A	740	0
Azorim Warrant B	92.6	0
Badash Bond 1	320	0
Bank	128.5	0.4
Balentine 1	131.5	0
Balentine Bond A	1	-50
Balenine Warrant 2	3500	21.4
Balron	102	0
Bama'asaf	148.3	0
Bama'asaf Bond A	297	-2.9
Bar	132.5	0
Bar Bond A	251	-1.2
Barad	747	0
Baranowitz	581	-2.6
Barkan	102	-10.1
Barkol	255	0
Bartal	163.5	0
Baumel Moshe	92.3	-0.2
BaySide Bond 2	2000	-7
BaySide Warrant D	1570	0
Beit Shemesh	352	0
Belmon	175	0
Ben Yakar Bond A	89.5	-0.6
Ben Yakar Bond B	3491	0.8
Ben Yakar Gal	146	-1.4
Berman	118.5	-0.4
Bezek Bond 3	0	0
Bezek Bond 4	0	0
Bezek Warrant 3	302	-0.7
Bezek Warrant Bond 3	2220	0
Bilu	193	0
Bilu Bond A		
Binar	380	0
Bin	220	0
Bokos Bond B	87	0
bokos ged warrant 1	40.2	0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Bonus Tichon	500	0
Boruxar	470	-3.4
Boulous Brothers	180	-0.5
Boulous Brothers Bond 1	264	0
Boulous GD Bond A	140.5	0
Brand	86.5	0
Brill	59	0
Brok Sade	15.6	-0.6
Brosh	135	0
Building Bank	1980	0
Building Recon	3790	0
C Holdings	504	-11.1
C Holdings Bond 5	77	0
C Holdings Warrant 3	0	0
Carasenta 1	5590	-1.8
Canel	3530	3.4
Capital	820	0
Capital Bond A	125.9	0
Capince	357	2
Cargal	710	-4.9
Carmel	550	0
Carmel	419	0
Castro	573	0
Catalena 1	298	0
CDI	160	1.2
Cenomlecal Bond A	73	-0.8
Cementcal	350	-5.7
Centex	123.5	0
Centra Bond 1	137	0
Cham	420	0
Chayun Computers	141.5	2.9
Chemapal	399	-0.2
Chem-Ner	479	0
CI Systems	144.4	0
Ciclab	143.5	0
Clal Computers	8250	0
Clal Israel 5	0	0
Clal Retail	56190	0
Cohen Bern	114.4	6.4
Cohen Dev.	190	0
Cohen MM	138	0
Cold Storage 1	1870	0
Cold Storage 5	8650	1.5
Cold Storage and Supply Bond 1	255	0
Comp	132	-0.8
Comp Warrent 1	20	0
Compulse	188	0
Comrech	413	0
Comtrans	729	1.2
Contal	971	0
Contractors	16770	-0.2
Coral Beach	569	3.1
Credit Line	3.4	0
Credit Lines Bond A	33	0
Cyclone 1	2590	-1.9
Cyclone Bond 1	253	0
Cyclone Bond 2	187	0
Dafron	1647	0
Dafron Bond 1	252	0
Dalin	1.3	7.7
Dan Rent-A-Car	760	0
Dan Rent-A-Car Bond A	159	1.9
Danbar 1	5000	-7
Danbar 5	17500	0
Danbar Bond A	266	0
Danbar Resources	7500	0
Danbar Resources Bond B	168.5	0.6
Danbar Tech	5350	0
Danbar Technologies Bond A	157	0.5
Daniel	46.9	-0.2
Daniel Bond A	91.7	0
Daniel Personnel	2000	0
Daniel Warrant 2	435	0
Dankner Bond 1	210	-0.5
Dankner Bond 2	143	0
Dankner Bond 3	97.5	1.1
Dankner Warrant C	545	7.3
Danly	444	-2
Darad	117.7	0
DARBAN BOND 2	104	0.7
Darban Bond A	269	0
DARBAN W2	75	-5.3
Darban Warrant 3	130	6.2
Daros	145.5	0
Darlon	300	0
Dash Investment	905	0
Data	561	0
Decision Systems	442	0
Degem Systems	410	-4.9
Delek Drillings	17.8	-10.7
Delek Oil	1500	6.7
Delta 1	3450	4.8
Delta 3	0	0
Destiny	779	0
Digal	149.5	0
Dirom1	1225	0
Dolev	310	0
Dolev Bond A	139.3	-0.5
Dolev warrant 1	44	0
Domicar	405	0
Domicar Bond	156	0
Dor Berger	350	-8.3
Dor Chim	369	0
Dorc w1	76	0
Dorea	56	0
Dori c1	98.2	1
Dori Engineering	444	0
Dori Engineering Bond A	140	-1.1
Dovrat Bond A	141.3	-0.1
Dovrat Shrem	1310	7.2
Dovrat Shrem Warrant 3	0	0
DSL	1025	1.3
Dubek M	2.5	0
Dubek S	2.3	0
Dunitz	286	0
DYG Industries	458	0.2
E & M Computing	1025	0.1
Edgar Absorl	53.5	-0.9
Edgar Industries	199	2
Edgar Inv. Bond C	86.3	-0.8
Edgar Inv. Warrant 5	21	4.8
Efter Bond A	98	0
Eini	148	0
Eitam	300	0
Eltonsan	2830	1.4
El Bad	1680	4.8
El Cant	544	0
El Canit Bond 1	155	0.3
Elad	475	0
Elad Bond A	170.6	0.2
Elad Bond B	151	-0.3
Elad c3	76	0
Elad w5	29	0
Elbit Computers Bond B	127.5	-0.4
Elbit Computers Warrant 2	0	0
Elden Tech	218	0
Electronics Line	537	0
Elgar	5150	0
Elishav	502	0
Eltech Ind.	900	0
Elsam	309	0
Elta	354	0
Elta Bond A	144	-1
Eran	3720	0
Elron Warrant 2	0	0
Emek	136	0
Emylie	670	0
Engel Const.	748	0
ESE	1800	-2.6
Eshed Robotech	165	-2.7
Even	399	-1.8
Evergreen	3200	0
Evnos Warrant 1	1550	0
Excelance	1647	0
Export Inv.	818	-0.2
Extra	102.5	-1
Feldman	188	0
Feldman Bond A	155	0
Feldman Ind.	246	0
Feldman Warrant 3	13	0
Fertilizers 1	119	0
Fiauchwanger 1	9400	-5.2
Fiauchwanger 5	46500	0
Fidelti	2380	0
Five J Jewelers	343	0.6
Five J Jewelers Bond 2	132.5	0
Frutarom	116	0
Frutorom	398	2.3
Gahelet	13920	-0.6
Galicom	196	0
Galram	1020	0
Gama	184	-0.5
Gamatronic	580	0
Gambit	1975	0.8
Gan Shmoel Bond A	109.9	4.4
Gan Shmoel Warrant 3	438	4.8
Gan Shmuel	1275	2
Gaonel Hadar	425	0
Gap Development	115	0
Gap Holdings	192	0
Gap Warrant 2	5.5	27.3
Gazit	659	0
Gazit Bond B	155	0
Gazit Bond C	129.2	0.2
Gibor Bond 1	65	0
Gibor Bond A	90.7	0
Gibor Sabrina	62	0
Gibor Sport	648	0
Gibor Warrant 2	85	0
Gilboa	68	0.7
Gilo	190	0
Gilsix	150	5.3
Givot Olam Oil	756	0
Glob Rit	515	0
Golan	229	-0.9
Gold	405	0
Golden House	254	0
Golden House Bond 1	157	0
Golor	153.6	0.4
Granit Bond	153	-0.3
Granit Bond 2	276	0
Green Software	1350	-1.5
Greenberg	45	0
H. Electronics	800	1.9
H. Mer	2409	0
Hahav	133	0
Hahav Bond 1	29900	-6
Hadar 1	75000	0
Hadar 5	890	-1
Hadar Ins. 1	3780	1.3
Hadar Ins. 5	115	-0.1
Hadarim Bond1.	1000	0
Hadarim Warrant1	370	0
Hagal	153	-0.6
Hagal Bond B	221	-1.8
Hamakor	6.8	-7.4
Hanal	480	0
Harel Bond A	650	0
Hashi Esh	190	-1.8
Hason	270	0
Hatchot 1	144.4	0
Hatchot Bond A	1167	1.5
Hayal	0	0
Hayal Bond1	145	0
Hayal Bond2	82	-1.2
Hayal Warrant 1	335	0
Hed Arzi Music	11380	0
Hiron 1	39600	0
Hiron 5	188.5	0
HL Service Bond 2	152	0
HL Service Bond 3	1505	0
HL Services	190	0
Hod	694	0
Hofit	139.5	0
Home Center	6700	-0.9
Hydrotec	115.6	0
IES Industries	485	0
IES Warrant 1	89	0
Ilan Gal	114	0.9
Ilan Gal Bond A	147.5	0
ILDC Bond 6	261	0.4
ILDC Hotels	430	0
ILDC Hotels Bond 1	172.9	0
ILDC Hotels Warrant 2	109	0
ILDC Insurance	422	0
ILDC Insurance Bond A	139.2	0.3
Imco	927	0.3
Ind Bld Warrant 3	31.5	17.8
Ind Bldgs R1	15.2	0.3
Ind.Dev.Bank C	318	0
Ind.Dev.Bank CC	3240	0
Ind.Dev.Bank CC 1	3070	0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Ind Dev.Bank Pref	1629	-0.1
Independence Mort	78700	0.9
Interbooms	718	0
Intergamma 1	3540	0
Intergamma 5	12500	0
Iscar	1695	0
Ispro	4100	2.4
Isracolor	301	0
Israel Corp. 5	147000	0.1
Israel Lighterage Bond 3	138.8	0
Israel Wire & Cables Bond C	179.6	-0.2
Israform	955	0
Israkom Bond B	265	0
Israkom Bond C	88	0
Issamco	2.6	-3.8
Issta 1	7190	0
Issta 5	28500	0
Issta Bond A	252	0
ISTA LINES	2270	0
Itay	2680	0
Itay Bond I.	74.8	-0.8
Itay Warrant 1	336	0
Itay Warrant 2	0	0
Jakora Bond A	170	0
Jaysous	123	-0.4
Jaysous Bond A	109	0
JEC Bond B	93.4	0
Jerusalem Mort	192	0.5
Jerusalem Mortgage Bond 16	182.5	0
Jesamsse	30.2	0
JOEL	97.2	-11.1
JOEL Bond 1A	222	0.9
JOEL Bond 2	127.7	0.4
JOEL Bond A	293	0
JOEL Warrant 3	1.3	0
Kadmoni	134	0
Kadouri	264	0
kalmico bond b	90.5	0
kalmoe warrant 1	84.5	0
Kalmt	1400	2.9
Kalkalit Bond A	97.6	2.3
Kalkalit warrant 2	260	0.8
Kamour	492	0.6
Kamour Bond G	134.2	0
Kamsopt	980	0
Kanel Warrant G	1	0
Kanicel	30.7	0
Kanicel Bond A	41	0
Kardan 1	491	-1.6
Kardan 5	2270	-0.4
Katz	126	0
Katz Bond A	64	0
Kedem Chemicals	3890	0
Kedem Chemicals Bond 2	0	0
Kenaka	328	-1.2
Kechor	760	1.3
Kesher Bond A	155	0
Kesor	665	0
Kind	18.7	-1.1
Kind Bond A	41.2	7
King	283	0
Kinneret	178	-0.6
Kisch Kunr	184	0
Kishrei Teufa	1021	0
Kisol	229	-0.9
Kitzi Bond A	155	0
Kitzi Bond A	116.6	0
Klil Ind 5	6980	-0.3
Koor Bond 5	143.6	0.1
Kopel	255	0
Kopel Bond 1	247	0
La Nasonsdi Bond A	139	0
La Nationale Pref	120	-3.7
Lachesh	2790	0
Lumoni	800	0
Lapidot Oil Exploration	1	0
Lapidot Oil Explorers	77.5	3.2
Lasers	376	0
Lavlow	551	0
Laznick Bldg	450	0
Laznick Comm Cors	154.5	0
Laznick Commercial Centres Bond 136		0
Laznick Ind Bldgs	316	0
Laznick Industrial Bldgs. Bond A	142	0
Leader Warrant B	0	0
Lego	470	0
Leuma R4	0	0
Leventhal	405	-0.2
Leo	660	0
Levi Bond A	143	-4.2
Levi Bond B	89	-0.6
Levi Warrant 2	73	0
Levinstein Bond A	96.9	0.9
Levinstein Warrant 2	707	0
Levinstein	1540	0
Libar	328	0
Lidar	1600	9.1
Lilstar 1	168	-0.6
Lilshit 5	634	-12.8
Lipad	678	0
Lipad Bond 1	150	0
Lightwage 1	820	-3.2
LIMS	245	0
Lipman	2700	0
Lipsis	2570	0
Lipsis Bond A	170.5	0
Lirez Bond A	138.5	0
Lodan	128	-2.3
Lodzia 1	1355	0
Lodzia 4	5380	0
Luhot Gelil	31.1	0
Luhot Gelil Bond 1	133	-1.1
Lumir	3000	-4.1
Ma'ariv	2900	0
Ma'ariv Bond A	137.2	0.6
Maabarot	1215	0
Maapell	782	1.4
Maapell Bond A	141	0
Maapell Bond B	124	0
Maapell Bond C	77	-0.5
Maapell Warrant 3	37	0
Mabil	685	-3.8
Magem	121.5	2.1
Magem Bond A	169	0
Magem Bond B	130.5	0
Magav	157	0
Magma	41.2	-5.1
Magor 1	2120	0
Magor 5	9500	0
Magor hldgs. Bond B	88	0
Magor hldgs. Warrant 2	552	0
Makel	275	0
Meli	128.7	0
Malibu 1	0	0
Malibu 5	0	0
Malibu Bond B	0	0
Malta	780	0
Man	77	0
Man Bond A	216	0
Mantur	24.7	0
Marathon	94.8	0
Marathon insured	101	1.8
Mario Laznick Constr. Bond 1	169.4	0
Mario Laznick Constr. Bond 2	152.5	-0.2
Maritime Bank	1350	-0.7
Maritime Bank Bond A	202	0
Maritime Bank Bond B	145.9	0.3
Mashav	830	0
Mashbir	625	4
Mashov	368	0.6
Mashov	154	-5.2
Matom	1428	0.6
Matav Warrant 1	1056	5.5
Maxima 1	404	8.4
Maxima 5	1648	0
Mazpak	755	-1.3
Med. Hotels	27	-3.3
Mediachnica	660	-1.4
Mediltechnica Bond A	136.6	0
Mediltechnica Bond B	85.4	0
Mediltechnica Warrant 2	120	0
Mediterranean Hotels Bond A	53.6	20.4
Megason	57.5	0
Meimad	398	0
Meir Ezra	2020	0
Meir Ezra Bond B	259	0
Melet	295	0
Melisseron Bond B	92.4	-0.5
Melisseron Warrant 3	42	5
Mendelson	188	-0.6
Menofim	36.4	0
Menorah Ins. 5	8350	-0.5
Mercazit	870	2.3
Merhav	175	0
Meytavit	200	-0.5
Middle East Tube	313	-5.4
Middle East Tube Bond A	112.5	0
Middle East Tube Warrant 2	19	24.2
Millomar Bond A	136.5	-3.3
Millomar Bond B	83.4	-0.7
Millomar Warrant 2	145	0
Mimsar	91	0
Mini Line	515	0
Minrav	12800	-1.2
Mirage	206	0
Mirage Bond A	137.5	0
Mirage Warrant 1	13	0
Mirorni	60	0
Mishmeat	19	0
Mishmeat Bond B	58	0
Mishor Bond 2	140.6	-5.3
Mishor Hahof	363	3.3
Mivarani	162	0
Mivtach Shamir	2240	0
Mivtach Shamir	1240	-0.8
Mizrahi	855	3.2
Mizrahi warrant 1	279	12.2
Mizrahi warrant 2	154.7	9.2
MM Engineering	113	-0.4
MM Engineering Bond A	82	-1.2
Modgal	624	0
Modi'in	1	0
Mofet	205	7.9
Mofet Convertible Bond AAA	299	0
Molam	857	0.5
More Plastic Ind.	387	0
Moshkovitz	150	-8.7
MTI Computers	468	0
Mul-T-Lock	765	0
Mula Senter	223	0
Nachshon Fund	44.1	-0.9
Naphtha	37	0
Naphtha Oil Exp.	28.7	-11.1
Natour	751	0
NATSWA BOND A	105	0
Navigator	340	0
Navigator Property	740	2.2
Nechushtan Bond B	75.1	0
Nechushtan Prop.	198.9	0
Nechushtan Properties Bond A	136	0
Nechushtan Warrant 1	28	0
Negev Ceramics	162.5	0
Nehushtan 1	600	0
Nehushtan 5	2500	0
Neot Aviv	7800	0
Nesia	469	0
Nave Arbel	181	3.9
Nevtim Hotels	348	-0.5
Newot	800	0
Nir	231	-0.4
Nitaw	945	0
Nisco	2560	0
Nissan	840	0
NMC	220	0
Noga	1500	0
Noga Insorens	106	0
Nordan	13	0
Nordan Tech.	370	0
Norlolk	850	0
Norlolk Bond A	148	0
Ntor	63	0
NYP	997	0
Oceana	396	1
Oeil Bond A	180.5	0
Oeil Bond C	90.5	0
Oeil Warrant 2	728	0
Octova	564	0
Olek	210	0
Olar Bro	5390	5.4
Olfis	1080	0.9
Ogden	61	0
Ohalav	480	0
Oil Fields	1.1	0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Oki-Dok	271	-1.1
Omni	250	0
Ormatech	192.5	9.1
Ophir	345	0
Oppenheimer	88	0
Optenn	120	0
Orasys	3793	4.5
Orazul	373	3.5
Orazur Bond A	162.6	0
Orda	3490	0
Orda Bond 1	181	0
Orov	793	0
Oneli	120	15.8
Oniar	290	0
Oniar Bond A	94	0
Oniar Warrant 2	40	46
Oniron Industries Bond D	135	0
Oniral Industries Warrant 5	131	-9.2
Orbil	360	0
Orzar Hashiton	26000	2.7
Oz	200	6
Oz akon	427	0
Packer Steel	5720	2.1
Pallrough	604	0
PAM	480	-1.7
Pamia	698	4.7
Pamos	2220	0.9
Pan Dor	271	0
Pandes	711	0
Pandes Bond A	98	-0.9
Passport	2500	0
Paz Chan	361	0
PCB	1250	1.6
Pdan Investment	50.5	9.5
Pereg	112	0
Pandoes	758	1.3
Phoenix Ins. 5	20000	0
Pica Plast	435	0
Pinnos	129.5	-0.4
Pinnos Bond A	144.5	0
Pirkit	415	0
Plasson bond a	102	0
Plasson warrant 1	368	0
Plasson	3740	0
Plasto Sale	651	0
Plasto Sheck Bond A	87.6	0
Plasto Sheck Warrant 2	103	0
Poalam Inv Bond B	95.6	0.1
Poalam Inv. Warrant 3	2600	0
Poalam Investments Bond A	138.5	0.4
Poalam Warrant 3	0	0
Point of Sale	1561	2.2
Polaris	217	-0.5
Polgat A	306	0
Polgat B 4	1170	0
Polgat Bond B	0	0
Polygon	204	0
Polygon Bond 2	220	0
Poraz	220	5
Port	72	0
Posadon	106.8	-2.1
Pri Haemek	18.2	-0.5
Pri Haemek Bond A	30.8	-1
Pritzker	206	0
Pritzker Bond A	142	0
Profit	306	0
Profit Bond A	133	0.4
Pylmon	490	0
Quality Cup Mkts	550	0
Rabanax	270	0
Ram Zur	72	-14.6
Ramgor 1	276	0
Ramgor 4	685	0
Rapak	2410	0
Rapak Bond A	157.6	0.5
Rassco	1416	1.1
Ratio	1	0
Rav Car	110	0
Rs

Dow posts biggest point gain ever; TASE also up

	LAST	CHANGE*
Texaco Pet	13.125	+0.375
Texaco	58.0625	+1
Texas Instruments	53.0625	+3.9375
Texas Utilities	41.3125	-0.5
Textron	65.5625	+3.6875
Thiokol	-	-
Thomas & Betts	35.8125	+1.4375
ThreeCom	25.5	+1.625
Time Warner	86.75	+3.4375
Times-Mirror	58	+2.4375
Timken	19.3125	+1.25
Torchmark	37.1875	+0.3125
Tosco Corp	22.625	+0.25
Toys R Us	18	+0.125
Transamerica	106.625	+7.125
Transco Energy	61.125	+4.75
Travellers Grp	42.1875	+3.125
Tribune	64	+1.875
Triton Energy	11.375	+0.0625
TWA	6.0625	+0.0625
Tyco Intl Ltd	55.3125	+0.6125
Tyler	8.625	+1.5625
-		
UAL Corp	62.375	+5.875
USG Corp	43.9375	+0.5
UST Inc	28.25	+0.875
USX Marathon	28.875	+0.625
USX-US Steel	22.3125	+1.0625
Ultramar Diam	35.9375	+0.6875
Unicom Corp	35.75	+0.75
Unilever PLC	39.8125	+2.75
Unilever NV	72.75	+4.25
Union Camp	37.8125	+1.5625
Union Carbide	42.3125	+2.4375
Union Pacific	40.875	+1
Uneays Corp	21	+2
USAIR Group	51.625	+2.75
USF&G Corp	-	-
US Home	30.5	+1.625
US Surgical	41.625	+1.25
US Trust	64.3125	+2.5875
US West	50.75	+1.375
United Tech	79.9375	+3.8125
Unocal Corp	35	+0.625
-		
VF Corp	40.1875	+2.1875
VMRX Pharmaceutic	1 40625	+0.1875
Valero Energy	20	+0.6875
Varian Assoc	33.9375	+1
Viacom Inc	60.3125	+4.1875
Vishay	10.75	+0.3125
Vulcan Materials	110.813	+1.4375
-		
Wachovia	80.5	+4.3125
Walgreen	44.5	+3.75
Wal-Mart Stores	82.75	+4.25
Warner-Lambert	72.4375	+4.4375
Wash Gas Light	25.0625	+0.5625
Washington Mutu	33.0625	+1.9375
Washington Post	522.625	+13.6125
Waste Mgmnt Inc	48.875	+1.6235
Watsn-Johnson	20	-0.125
Wells Markets	34.125	+0.375
Wells Fargo	317.188	+22.3125
Wendy's Intl	21.3125	+0.5625
Westvaco	23.4375	+1.1875
Weyerhaeuser	38.6875	+1.1875
Whirlpool	47.9375	+0.875
Whitman	16.9375	-0.0625
Williams Co	24	-0.1875
Winn Dixie Stor	39.1875	+1.1875
Woolworth	8.9375	+0.375
World Comm	48.3125	+2.5625
Worthington Ind	12.5625	+0.3125
Wrigley	78.375	+3.375
-		
Xerox	93.125	+4.625
-		
Yahoo	84.625	+9.25
Yellow Freight	13.4375	+0.9375
-		
Zero Co	-	-

LONDON

Allied Domecq	501	-9
BAT Inds	466	+93
BT	804	+7.5
BTR	132	+1.25
Barclays	1308	+5
Bass	875	+10
Boots	1010	+28
British Airways	443	+2.5
Comm Union plc	971	+28
Diageo	806	-4
General Electric	486	+18
Glaxo	1827	-14
Halifax	723	-5.5
HSBC (75p shs)	1264	+27
ICI	605	-15
Land Securities	888	-7.5
Lloyds Bank	727	+18
Marks & Spencer	498	-20
NatWest Bank	999	+28
Prudential	858	+8
Reuters	509	-12.5
Sainsbury	540	+0
Shell Transport	366	-3
Tyco Intl	3250	+0
Unilever	585	+1.5
Zeneca	2288	-31

PARIS

Accor	1425	+54
Air Liquide	842	+4
Alcatel Alsthom	1092	+66
Euro Disney	9.55	+0.2
Moulinex	110	+1
Paribas	472	+11
Pernod Ricard	407	+12
Peugeot	971	+41
Saint Gobain	901	+5

FRANKFURT

Bayer	68	+1.5
Daimler-Benz	161.7	-1.3
Lufthansa	41	-0.5
Mannesmann	168.9	0
Metallgesellschaft	31	+0.4
Volkswagen	132	+6

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 8-SEP-98)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

	Last	Change
Sal (Basket) (1)	4.1602	0
U.S. Dollar (1)	3.857	0
British Pound (1)	6.3845	0
Deutsch Mark (1)	2.2276	0
French Franc (1)	0.6643	0
Japanese Yen (100)	2.904	0
Swiss Franc (1)	2.7237	0
Canadian Dollar (1)	2.5272	0
Italian Lira (1000)	2.2552	0
Jordanian Dinar (1)	5.4191	0

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	8020.78	+380.53
DJ Transport	2749.3	+132.55
DJ Utils	276.88	+5.21
DJ Comp	2518.23	+107.23
NYSE Indust	634.7	+27.36
NYSE Transport	400.53	+15.89
NYSE Comp	506.58	+22.27
S&P 100	500.22	+22.78
S&P Spot Index	1023.46	+49.57
Israel Index	204.42	0

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	5344.2	-2.8
Tokyo Nikkei	14913.4	+123.4
Singapore all-share index	269.49	+0.37
Hong Kong Hang Seng index	8189.2	+112.5
Israel Index	204.42	0
Paris CAC 40	3803.74	+108.39
DAX	4923.37	+103.12
Madrid	748.76	+8.74
Swiss Market Index	7033.8	+185.4
Sydney	2555.2	-14
Milan	1297.14	+8.41

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

	Last	Change
Pound: spot	1.6565	-0.0101
Sep.future (CME)	1.654	-0.017
D-mark: spot	1.7305	+0.0069
Sep.future (CME)	0.5737	+0.0007
S-franc: spot	1.417	+0.0079
Sep.future (CME)	0.7079	+0.004
Yen: spot	132.2	+0.8
Sep.future (CME)	0.007576	+8e-005
CanDlr: spot	1.5184	-0.0026
Sep.future (CME)	0.6578	+0.0018
AusDlr: spot	0.592	+0.004
Sep.future (CME)	0.5912	+0.0042
F-franc: spot	5.802	+0.02
It Lire: spot	1706.25	+5.15
Nig: spot	1.9928	+0.004
AuShlg: spot	12.147	+0.014
Rand: spot	6.2225	+0.08
ECU: spot	1.1388	-0.0045

US COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (Sep) (CEC)	1560	-8
Coffee (Sep) (CEC)	122.05	+3.15
Wheat (Sep) (CBOT)	250	+4
Soybean (Sep) (CBOT)	526	+3
Sugar (Oct) (CEC)	7.35	-0.24
Orange juice (Sep)(CEC)	116.45	+0.55
Crude Oil (Dec)(NYMEX)	14.75	-0.24
Bonds Sep.future	128.813	-0.5875
S and P Sep.future	1028	+52

LONDON COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (Sep) (LCE)	1035	-1
Coffee (Sep) (LCE)	1715	+29
Brent crude oil (Dec)(IPE)	1351	-5

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

	Last	Change
Silver: spot	4.91	-0.13

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

	Last	Change
Gold (Dec)	289.2	-0.9
Silver (Sep)	4.854	-0.114
Platinum (Oct)	361.2	-3
Palladium (Sep)	282.2	-5.8
High-grade copper (Sep)	0.7715	+0.0185

LONDON METAL FIXES

	Last	Change
Gold AM fix	287.3	-1.05
Gold PM fix	288.25	+0
Silver fix	501	-3

Month in parentheses signals contract exp. date
(Spot market listings are from approximately 23:30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 8-SEP-98)

Wall Street

NEW YORK (AP) — The Dow industrials soared 380 points yesterday, leaping its biggest point gain ever after the Federal Reserve signaled it might lower interest rates.

The Dow Jones industrial average finished up 380.53 points at 8,020.78 — the market's first foray above 8,000 points since its 512-point drop on August 31.

The blue-chip barometer gained five percent for the day.

The Dow is still sharply below its mid-summer peak, however. The market is 1,300 points, or 14%, below its July 17 record of 9,337.97.

Broad-market indexes joined in the global rally that began Monday as US markets closed for Labor Day.

The buying frenzy followed comments Friday evening by Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan indicating that the financial turmoil in Asia and Russia may pose more of a threat than inflation.

Until now, Fed officials have maintained that inflationary pressures were too strong to fuel borrowing and spending with a cut in interest rates.

But with the fiscal trouble abroad now threatening Latin America and Canada, Greenspan said the Fed is growing more concerned about the world crises' drag on the US economy.

The Standard and Poor's 500 was up 42.85 at 1,016.74, and the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite was up 81.63 at 1,648.15.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by more than a 4-to-1 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 810.57 million shares, compared with 777.65 million shares Friday.

The NYSE composite index was up 22.28 at 508.59, and the American Stock Exchange composite index was up 22.02 at 624.73.

In Europe, Frankfurt's DAX index rose 3.7%, the Paris CAC-40 rose 2.9%, and the London's FTSE 100 slipped 0.1%.

Tel Aviv

Stocks on the TASE rose for a third day yesterday as gains in Asian equity markets and an expected rise in US shares spawned optimism that foreign investors will expand their stakes again in emerging markets, including Israel.

Bank Hapoalim Ltd., the nation's largest bank and a favorite among foreign investors, gained 2.1 percent to NIS 9.74. That helped the Maof Index of the 25 largest companies to gain 1.6 percent to 303.69 after surging more than 3 percent on Monday.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average opened up 2.3 percent on expectations that the Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan will lower rates. That may boost the confidence of foreign investors looking to enter emerging market equities, analysts said.

"There's talk of a US interest rate cut to ease the emerging market currencies with a weaker dollar. It's clearly giving a little bit more of confidence to domestic players in Israel," said Keith Phillips, an analyst at Societe Generale Securities and Trading. "It's a question of stability in other emerging markets. It gives everybody confidence."

STOCKS



Maof 303.69 ▲ 1.6%

Dow Jones ▲ %

FTSE 5344.2 ▼ 0.05%

Nikkei 14913.49 ▲ 0.83%

Bank Leumi, the second-largest bank, gained 0.6 percent to NIS 6.31 and Israel Discount Bank, the No. 3 bank, rose 3.1 percent to NIS 3.96. Both banks have attracted the interest of foreign investors.

Discount Investment Corp. advanced 4.6 percent to 106.6 after parent IDB Development said yesterday it will merge the investment company with affiliate PEC Israel Economic Corp. to save costs and to unify the companies' portfolios. IDB Development rose 3.9 percent to 87.8.

"They are doing the right move, cutting expenses on headquarters. They are two mirror companies. It's kind of ridiculous to hold the companies separate," said Ron Weisberg, an analyst at Israel Brokerage and Investments.

Asia

Japanese stocks traded mixed as overseas hedge funds, seeking to reduce risk and to raise money to offset losses in Russia and other markets, bought back Nikkei 225 futures contracts.

That pulled up the underlying benchmark Nikkei index and companies such as Sony Corp., the index leader, and Shin-Etsu Chemical Co.

The hedge fund buying pushed the Nikkei 225 index up 123.43, or 0.83 percent, to 14,913.49. The broader Topix index of all shares on the first section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange fell 1.64 points, or 0.14 percent, to 1131.01 as domestic institutional investors sold bank stocks such as Sanwa Bank Ltd. before the half-year book closing at month's end.

"With the economy so poor and unending negative news on corporate earnings, 15,000 is really the ceiling," said Noriyuki Fujiwara, director of the Japanese equity department at Credit Suisse Asset Management Co., who manages 40 billion yen ($302 million) in securities and says he sold banking shares during yesterday's rise.

The Nikkei index has risen 870 points the past two days with no change in Japan's grim economic outlook or prospects for improved earnings. Yesterday, in its September report, the Economic Planning Agency lowered its assessment of the economy for the second straight month, saying the economy is in "a prolonged slump, a very severe situation."

The rise in the Nikkei "is pure short covering by hedge funds – in addition there's a global margin call going on," said Stephen Bronte, managing partner at Stephen Bronte Partners, a Japanese equities hedge fund in Tiburon, California. Short covering refers to the buying back of securities sold in anticipation of a price drop.

"We'll look back in a few weeks and say, 'That was our last chance to sell.' " said Celia Farnon, an equity salesperson at Nomura Securities Co.

Sony rose 480 yen to 10,640; Shin-Etsu added 65 yen to 2,250. Sanwa Bank fell 39 yen to 940.

Europe

UK stocks were mixed as a rise by British American Tobacco Plc and other companies whose earnings are less vulnerable to an economic slowdown was offset by SmithKline Beecham Plc and other drug stocks.

"Uncertainty around the world has to have an impact on international companies," said Tim Rees, a fund manager at Clerical Medical Investment Group, which manages about $27 billion. "A more defensive stance seems to be the correct thing to do." The benchmark FTSE 100 Index fell 2.8 points to 5344.20 as 46 stocks gained, 53 fell and 3 were unchanged.

B.A.T advanced 78.5 pence to 466 on the first day of trading after it sold its financial-services division. It now sells nothing but tobacco, qualifying it as a "defensive" stock, since smokers generally smoke no matter how bad the economy gets.

"If you gave BAT the same ratios as Philip Morris, BAT would be worth about eight pounds," said Tim Young, an analyst at SG Securities. "The market was just waiting for tangible proof that the de-merger would actually take place." British Telecommunications Plc, another so-called defensive stock because people don't stop using the phone, gained 9 pence to 804. Boots Co. Plc, a pharmacy chain whose products are in demand regardless of economic conditions, gained 30p to 1,010.

Dollar rises against yen, mark

The dollar rose for the first time in four days against the yen yesterday and rose against the mark as US stocks rallied, boosting the allure of the US currency.

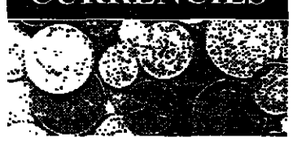
"A lot of people are buying dollars to get into stocks," said Doug Campbell, director of foreign exchange at Campbell & Co. in Towson, Maryland. "With stocks surging, you should understand why the dollar's higher. There's no magic here."

The dollar rose to 132.22 yen from 131.90 on Monday, though it's down 10 percent since reaching an 8-year high on August 11. It climbed to 1.7290 marks from 1.7260 marks.

The dollar sank to a four-month low on Monday against the yen after US Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan suggested Friday that interest rates might be cut amid signs of an economic slowdown around the globe. Lower rates tend to hurt the dollar because they reduce the yield on dollar-denominated deposits.

Still, Greenspan's remarks offered solace to stock investors because lower rates make it easier for companies to borrow money to invest and expand operations. They also encourage consumer spending by reducing the cost of credit.

CURRENCIES



Dollar 3.8570 ▼ 0.181%

Basket 4.1602 ▼ 0.478%

Mark 2.2276 ▼ 0.810%

Sterling 6.3845 ▼ 1.124%

"There's been a strong correlation between the performance of the US stock market and the dollar," said Kathy Jones, director of futures research at Prudential Securities Inc.

To be sure, the dollar could reverse course and resume its decline as investors sell dollars to compensate for losses in emerging markets. In recent months, many investors had borrowed yen at Japan's low lending rates, then sold those yen to finance other, high-yielding investments, often in risky emerging markets.

"People are getting out of profitable trades to cover losing trades," said Campbell.

A continuation of the yen's recent gains against the dollar would raise the price of Japanese exports and relieve pressure on US exporters, economists said.

(Bloomberg)

Gold, silver sharply lower

Gold moved more than $3 lower yesterday, followed by silver shedding recent gains in late European business as the Dow Jones index rallied over 250 points in early trading, dealers said.

Gold was quoted at $285.00/$285.50 an ounce by 1430 GMT, down $3.20 from the previous London close at $288.20/$288.70.

Silver shed more than 10 cents and was quoted at $4.85/$4.88, from the previous close at $5.03/$5.06.

"[The Dow] is the main excuse for getting rid of metals again," one dealer said.

Dealers said the precious metals markets had been overbought recently.

"It's been a bit frothy and they have just come back on the Dow," another dealer said.

A strengthening dollar also added to the precious metals' malaise.

Dealers said trade had been quiet in Europe before US markets opened after the Labor Day holiday.

Silver sustained the biggest plunge.

"We were a bit puzzled why it was above $5.00. Obviously with the stock markets looking better, anybody who was picking up metals on a flight-to-quality bid would have to be dumping them now pretty sharpish," a dealer said.

COMMODITIES



Gold $286.15 ▼ 2.30%

Crude Oil $13.14 ▲ 0.08%

CRB 202.72▲ 0.83%

In fundamental news, analysts said Indians – the world's biggest gold consumers – were increasingly buying due to global economic uncertainty.

Data for the first two months of 1998/99 (April/March) showed that gold and silver imports into India soared to $1.11 billion from $139 million in the same period a year earlier.

The price of gold was sharply above $300.00 an ounce in April and March this year, which analysts said might be have been due to the increased imports.

"This sharp increase in gold and silver imports, at a time when gold prices are falling internationally, shows the desperation of Indian households to protect their assets from continuous erosion," Anindya Chatterjee, head of markets research at ANZ Investment bank, said in a report.

World Gold Council (WGC) data showed that from January to July, India imported 384 metric tons of gold via official channels, up from 273 in the same period a year earlier.

Platinum and palladium also moved sharply lower in Europe on Tuesday.

Platinum was last quoted at $359.50/$351.50 from the previous close at $367.00/$369.00, while palladium was last at $274.00/$284.00 from the previous $281.00/$286.00.

(Reuters)

US bonds fall as stocks gain

US bonds fell for the first time in a week as stocks rallied around the world, sapping demand for the safety of Treasury securities.

"When stocks are strong, bonds tend to weaken," said Susan Huang, of Chase Asset Management.

The 30-year Treasury bond fell 23/32, or $7.19 per $1,000 bond, to 102 1/2, pushing its yield up 5 basis points to 5.33 percent. Shorter-term securities fared better, after a speech by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan late Friday boosted expectations for lower interest rates.

Two-year note yields – among the most sensitive to Fed rate expectations – were unchanged at 4.90%.

Treasuries climbed in recent weeks as investors shifted into bonds as a refuge from tumbling stock markets. Now, if stocks keep rising, bonds are likely to fall, investors said.

BONDS



US 30 -yearT-bill yield

5.33 ▲ 0.05

"If equities trade better, then Treasuries will lose a bit of ground," said Jim Leaviss, a fixed-income fund manager at M&G Investment Management. "It's a simple reversal of flows."

Even so, Treasuries may not fall too much after Greenspan's remarks. The Fed chief said central bankers "will need to consider carefully the potential ramifications of ongoing developments" outside of the US, when setting monetary policy in coming months.

Many investors interpreted the remarks as a hint the Fed will lower rates if the financial crises in Asia and emerging markets worsens in coming months. The Fed's policy-making committee next meets on September 29. Its target rate for overnight lending between banks stands at 5.50%, where it's been since March 1997.

(Bloomberg)

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Contact : Elan Levi

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates)

Currency (deposit for:)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar ($250,000)	4.770	4.800	5.090
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.550	5.540	5.620
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.180	2.280	2.700
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.060	0.190	0.560
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (8.9.98)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Buy	Sell	BANKNOTES Buy	Sell	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	4.1358	4.2026	—	—	4.1602
U.S. dollar	3.8311	3.8929	3.76	3.95	3.8570
German mark	2.2167	2.2525	2.17	2.29	2.2276
Pound sterling	6.3610	6.4636	6.25	6.56	6.3845
French franc	0.6613	0.6720	0.64	0.69	0.6643
Japanese yen (100)	2.8830	2.9397	2.84	2.99	2.9049
Dutch florin	1.9636	1.9953	1.92	2.03	1.9728
Swiss franc	2.7115	2.7553	2.66	2.80	2.7237
Swedish krona	0.4787	0.4865	0.47	0.50	0.4814
Norwegian krone	0.4938	0.5018	0.48	0.51	0.4969
Danish krone	0.5818	0.5912	0.57	0.60	0.5855
Finnish mark	0.7286	0.7404	0.71	0.76	0.7319
Canadian dollar	2.5123	2.5529	2.46	2.59	2.5272
Australian dollar	2.2707	2.3074	2.23	2.34	2.2812
S. African rand	0.6130	0.6229	0.55	0.63	0.6161
Belgian franc (10)	1.0746	1.0920	1.05	1.11	1.0798
Austrian schilling (10)	3.1516	3.2027	3.09	3.25	3.1663
Italian lira (1000)	2.2455	2.2818	2.20	2.32	2.2552
Jordanian dinar	5.3808	5.4676	5.28	5.57	5.4191
Egyptian pound	—	—	1.09	1.18	1.1571
ECU	4.3619	4.4323	—	—	4.3806
Irish punt	5.5563	5.6460	5.46	5.73	5.5826
Spanish peseta (100)	2.6119	2.6541	2.56	2.70	2.6253

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES
Jerusalem: Center Pharm, 20 Yad Harutzim, 673-1475; Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.
Tel Aviv: Superpharm, 40 Einstein, 641-3730; Superpharm Dizengoff Center, 50 Dizengoff, 620-0975.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Arza, 36 Ostrovsky, Ra'anana, 774-1613.
Netanya: Magen, 13 Weizmann, 882-2985.
Haifa: Kiryat Ellezer, 6 Mayerhoff Sq., 851-1707.
Krayot area: Kupat Holim Clalit Zevulun, 192 Derech Akko, Kiryat Bialik, 878-7818.
Herzliya: New Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.
Upper Nazareth: New Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS
Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (internal, obstetrics, ENT); Hadassah Mt. Scopus (surgery, orthopedics); Bikur Holim (pediatrics); Shaare Zedek (ophthalmology).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

POLICE 100
FIRE 102
FIRST AID 101
Magen David Adom
In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In addition:

Ashdod* 8551333	Kfar Sava* 9902222
Ashkelon 6551332	Naharlya* 9912333
Beersheba* 6274767	Netanya* 8604444
Beit Shemesh 9523133	Petah Tikva* 9311111
Dan Region* 5793333	Rehovot* 9451333
Eilat* 6332444	Rishon* 9642333
Haifa* 8512333	Sated 6920333
Jerusalem* 6523133	Tel Aviv* 5460111
Karmiel* 9985444	Tiberias* 6792444

* Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock.

Help line for English-speakers – Confidential hot-line counseling and referrals for all ages, all problems. MiLev Center for Crisis Counseling. (02) 654-1111, 1-800-654-111.
Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110.
The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-852-9205, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.
Eran – Emotional First Aid – 1201, also Jerusalem 02-561-0303 (Arabic: 563-0301); Tel Aviv 03-546-1111 (children/youth 546-0739); Rishon Lezion 03-956-6661/2; Haifa 04-867-2222 (Arabic: 867-2226); Beersheba 07-649-4333; Netanya 09-862-5110; Karmiel 04-988-8770 (Arabic: 958-3444); Kfar Sava 09-767-4555; Hadera 06-634-6789; Nazareth (Arabic: 06-645-4222).
Crisis Center for Religious Women 02-655-5744/5. 24-hour service, confidentiality guaranteed.
Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-651-4111, 03-546-1133, 07-637-6310, 08-855-0506.
Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (men), Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 853-0533, Eilat 633-1977.
Hadassah Medical Organization – Israel Cancer Association support service, 02-624-7878.
Flight arrivals – for information in English 03-972-3344.

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Manchester United reach for the Sky

IN the old days, life was much simpler for a football fan. You would scan the Saturday morning papers, pick out a game, roll up to the stadium, queue at a turnstile, pay a modest entry fee, and watch a game of football.

Then came the disasters at Heysel, Bradford and Hillsborough, the subsequent Taylor Report and the virtual sell-out of the national game to Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB company.

The game moved into a new phase of all-seater stadia, massive hype, vastly inflated prices and salaries and football merchandise, all of which have transformed the game into a massive multi-national business.

As if all of this was not enough, we have just been trying to get our heads round the idea of a European Super League with the possibility of three clubs from Britain leaving the premiership to join up, when along comes the latest bombshell over the weekend – Murdoch is in protracted negotiations to buy Manchester United.

For Murdoch, the £575 million fee is the equivalent of a 50 pence each-way bet in the local bookmakers by your average punter. The media giant is set to make a massive fortune if the deal goes through. Two weeks ago, I reported that Murdoch was interested in buying Tottenham – that was just to get the dust off his lips – United is very much the main course.

BSkyB already own the TV rights to football in this country until the end of 2001 in a deal worth £647 million. By owning a wealthy and powerful club, it could enjoy an influence in shaping not only domestic football but the proposed European league.

There are other implications too. What editorial line will the sports sections of the Murdoch-owned press take when reporting on United?

Have the directors of United, some of whom are set to make personal fortunes of tens of millions of pounds from the proposed takeover, put their own interests before the club's.

And perhaps most poignant of all, what will happen to Manchester United FC in terms of its identity as a community resource?

Journalist and United fan Jim White said on BBC Radio on Monday that the directors had already gone down the path of divorcing fans' identity by taking the words 'Football Club' from the badge on the players' shirts. White argued that "Manchester United" is now a symbol on its own, the implication being that if it suited Murdoch to move the club to Milton Keynes or Glasgow, he would do so.

Interestingly, the fans are split. Murdoch's money would undoubtedly allow the club to invest heavily in world stars like Zinedine Zidane, Reinaldo and Marcelo Salas, all of whom had been linked with Old Trafford, but whose deals fell through because of the asking price.

Yes, the fans want success, but many also want their club back. As White remarked: "If I don't like a newspaper's editorial policy, I can opt to read another one, but I can't just change my allegiances to a football team.

London Calling



Mark Rivlin

THE news of the Murdoch takeover bid came just three days after the broadcast of one of the most fascinating sports documentaries in recent years. The program was about the life and times of former football star Justin Fashanu who committed suicide in derelict garage in London's East End four months ago.

Fashanu, the elder brother of former Wimbledon and England striker John Fashanu, was the first £1 million black player when he moved from unfashionable Norwich City to the then glamour club Nottingham Forest in 1981.

The program detailed the lives of the brothers, from children's home to foster family to stardom. In Justin's case, the money and fame ruined him to the extent that he became a complete failure at Forest, writing off sports cars and enjoying the high life without finding happiness. He was also the first footballer to publicly come out about his homosexuality which caused a media storm in the late Eighties. He hanged himself after hearing US police were filing charges against him for an alleged sexual assault.

ON the field, the long knives have been drawn as Glenn Hoddle tried to put a brave face on England's poor start to their Euro 2000 campaign. Defeat in Sweden went by the book – the literary sort with England's preparations hampered by revelations in the latest "kiss and tell" tome to hit the shops, this time Tony Adams' autobiography. Adams, who is donating all the royalties to alcohol abuse charities, had plenty to say about Hoddle's tactics and managerial style during the World Cup, but the two sat side by side closing ranks during the pre-match press conference as if nothing had happened.

Nothing much happened in the England defense on Saturday and Adams, despite heroics week in and out for Arsenal, is not fast enough playing in a back three. If Hoddle is still around for the rest of the qualifying tournament, (bookmakers over the weekend were offering 1000-1 on Paul Gascoigne or Hoddle's faith healer Eileen Drewery getting the job), he may think the unthinkable and axe Adams from his plans.

SPORTS *in brief*

Caesarea golf

Yehuda Zilberbuch clinched the victory in the A division of the monthly medal competition at Caesarea Golf Club with a 70 net score at the weekend.

Clive Josset and Zev Abraham were tied for second with 72 but the better back nine system gave Josset the edge over Abraham. The best score came in the B division where Hanoch Reichenberg made a 67.

Hanan Eshed was second with 72 since his better back nine pushed him ahead of Amos Amir, also at 72.

Jules Cubumek won the C division with a 71 with Albert Elias second with 74 and Lenny Landes third at 75. *Heather Chait*

Truck load of firewood clinches transfer deal

BUCHAREST (Reuters) – Recolta Laza's hopes of hanging on to their goalkeeper went up in flames yesterday when he was signed from under their noses for a truck load of firewood.

Valentin Bargan was lured away from Laza to Stemnic Buda when the Romanian division four rivals doubled their transfer fee and threw in the logs.

"I decided to leave Recolta Laza for Stemnic Buda because they offered me 100,000 lei ($11.55) as a transfer fee, compared to 50,000 lei ($5.78) by the former club. But the main reason for my departure was a truck of firewood given me by the new club," said Bargan, who lives in a wood-heated house. "The club I quit offered me only a cartful to stay on."

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Griffey joins club with 49th, 50th home runs

Red Sox hand Wells rare loss; Astros' Johnson in 14K performance

SEATTLE (AP) – Ken Griffey Jr. homered twice against Baltimore on Monday night, giving baseball three 50-homer players in a season for the first time. The Mariners routed the Orioles 11-1.

The Seattle outfielder hit a 449-foot shot off Pete Smith in the fifth inning for his 49th homer, then hit his 10th career grand slam in the sixth off Jimmy Key, a line drive to left. He ran toward first base and pumped his right fist overhead when the ball cleared the wall.

Griffey, who had 56 homers last year after hitting 49 in 1996, joined Mark McGwire and Babe Ruth as the only players to hit 50 or more in consecutive seasons. Ruth did it in 1920-21 and 1927-28, and McGwire has hit 50 or more the last three years.

Hours earlier, McGwire hit his 61st homer to tie the major league record Roger Maris set in 1961. Griffey leads the AL and is third in the majors, trailing McGwire and the Chicago Cubs' Sammy Sosa, who has 58.

Griffey's 50-homer season is the sixth in the American League this decade. Before Cecil Fielder hit 51 in 1990 for Detroit, no AL player had topped 50 since Maris and Mickey Mantle (54) in 1961.

Griffey has 344 home runs in his 10-year career. It was his 35th multihomer game, his sixth this season.

Before 1996, there had been just two seasons in which a pair of players hit 50: Maris and Mantle in 1961, and Hank Greenberg (58) and Jimmie Foxx (50) in 1938.

McGwire (52) and Brady Anderson (50) achieved the feat in 1996, and McGwire and Griffey did it last year.

Blue Jays 15, Indians 1

Jose Canseco homered for the fourth consecutive game and as host Toronto tied a club record with its 11th straight win.

Shannon Stewart and Carlos Delgado also hit three-run homers for Toronto, which remained five games behind Boston in the wild-card race. Toronto, which swept four games from the Red Sox at SkyDome, hadn't won 11 straight since June 1987.

Red Sox 4, Yankees 3

John Valentin hit a go-ahead homer in the bottom of the eighth and sent David Wells (17-3) to his first loss since June 15 as Boston rallied from a 3-0, seventh-inning deficit.

The Yankees have lost three straight since winning their 100th game Friday night against the White Sox. It's only their third three-game losing streak this year but their second in a two-week span.

New York lost for the 11th time in 19 games and its magic number for clinching the AL East remained at three.

Greg Swindell (5-5) won and Tom Gordon pitched a perfect ninth for his 39th save.

Rangers 6, Twins 0

Rick Helling (18-7) pitched a three-hitter and Juan Gonzalez highlighted a six-run bottom-of-the-seventh with his 41st homer as second-place Texas closed within three games of Anaheim in the AL West.

Gonzalez has 149 RBIs, most in the AL.

White Sox 7, Tigers 5

Albert Belle hit his 45th home run, his 27th since the All-Star break.

Frank Thomas, Robin Ventura and Magglio Ordonez also homered for Chicago, which has won 11 of its last 14.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Cardinals 3, Cubs 2

Mark McGwire tied Roger Maris' major league record with his 61st homer of the season, leading St. Louis to a home win.

McGwire, who has 19 games remaining to break the record, connected in the first inning against Mike Morgan (0-1).

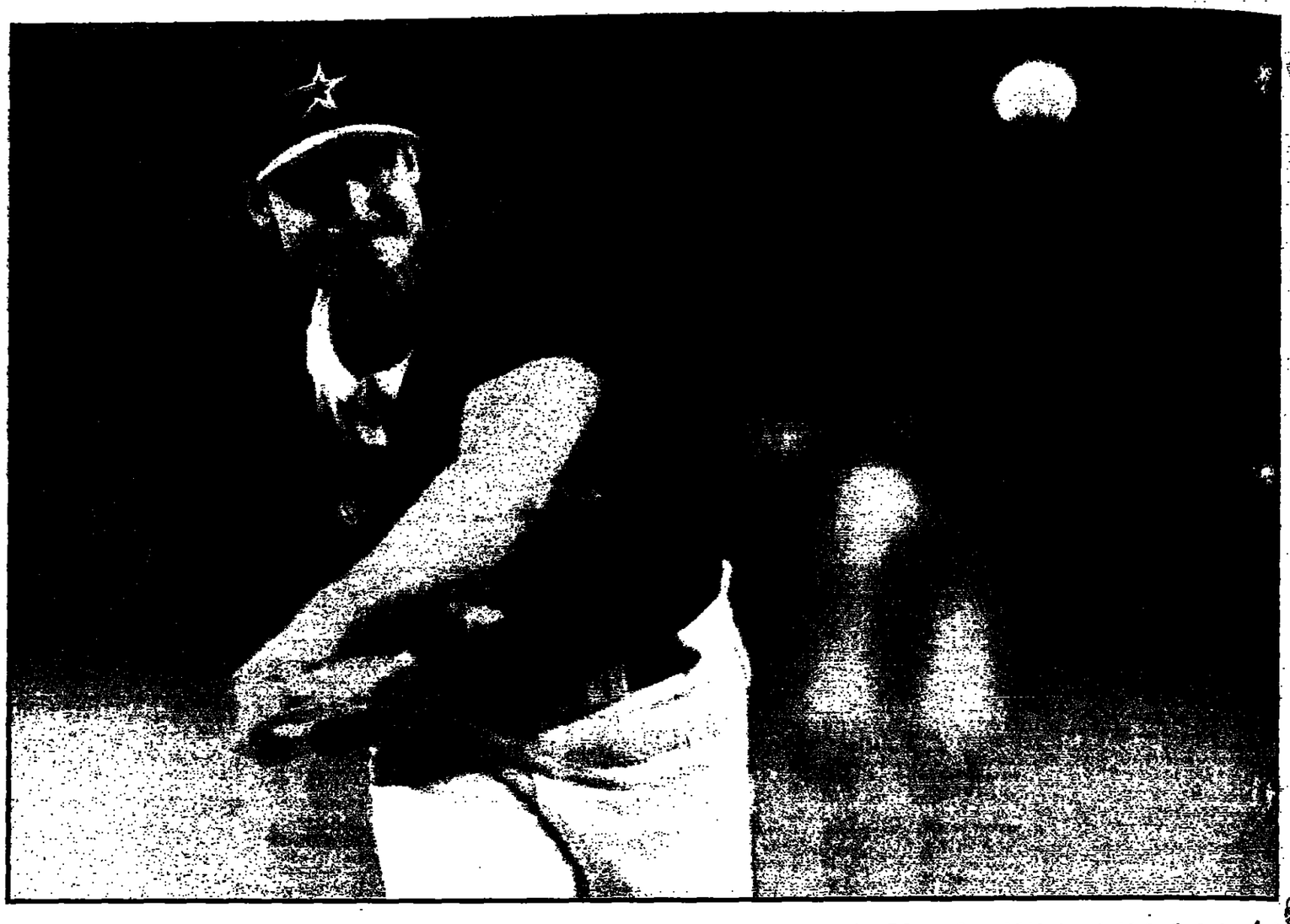
McGwire, 2-for-4 with a single and the homer, is three homers ahead of Chicago's Sammy Sosa, who went 1-for-5 with a single.

Astros 1, Reds 0

Randy Johnson pitched a six-hitter for his fourth straight shutout in the Astrodome since Houston acquired him.

Johnson (7-1) struck out 14 and walked one – intentionally. It was his 17th double-digit strikeout game this season, the 100th of his career.

Since Houston got him from Seattle on July 31, Johnson has 85 strikeouts in eight starts, reaching double digits four times. His ERA is 1.00.



ASTRODOME ACE – Houston's Randy Johnson lets one rip against the Cincinnati Reds. The Astros won 1-0 as Johnson fanned 14 batters in his fouth shutout and complete game under the Astrodome since joining the Astros last month. (Reuters)

Mets 8, Braves 7

Edgardo Alfonzo hit a two-run homer off John Rocker (1-2) with two outs in the bottom of the eighth.

Greg McMichael (3-4), the Mets' fourth reliever, pitched the eighth and John Franco worked the ninth for his 33rd save.

Rockies 15, Marlins 10

Larry Walker hit two solo homers, going 3-for-4 and increased his NL-leading batting average to .354. Vinny Castilla went 4-for-5 with his 42nd homer and three RBIs for the victorious hosts.

Brewers 6, Pirates 3

Marc Newfield's two-run pinch-homer broke a seventh-inning tie, and host Pittsburgh lost for the ninth time in 10 games. Dave Nilsson also hit a two-run homer off Elmer Dessens (2-3), Nilsson's first since July 13.

Diamondbacks 4, Dodgers 2

Andy Benes threw eight strong innings and Gregg Olson pitched the ninth for his 200th career save as Arizona win at home.

Giants 5, Padres 4

Ellis Burks hit a two-run double in the eighth and Jose Mesa escaped a bases-loaded jam as visiting San Francisco pulled within two games of New York and Chicago in the wild-card race.

Julian Tavarez (4-3) won with help from Jose Mesa and Robb Nen who pitched the ninth for his 35th save.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
y-New York	100	41	.709	—
Boston	82	60	.577	18½
Toronto	78	66	.542	23½
Baltimore	71	72	.497	30
Tampa Bay	55	87	.387	45½
Central Division				
Cleveland	79	64	.552	—
Chicago	67	76	.469	12
Kansas City	65	77	.458	13½
Minnesota	64	79	.448	15
Detroit	54	90	.375	25½
West Division				
Anaheim	79	64	.552	—
Texas	76	67	.531	3
Oakland	66	77	.462	13
Seattle	65	77	.458	13½

y-clinched playoff berth

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	92	52	.639	—
New York	80	64	.556	12
Philadelphia	67	76	.469	24½
Montreal	55	89	.382	37
Florida	48	96	.333	44
Central Division				
Houston	91	53	.632	—
Chicago	80	64	.556	11
St. Louis	70	73	.490	20½
Milwaukee	69	75	.479	22
Cincinnati	66	78	.458	25
Pittsburgh	65	77	.458	25
West Division				
San Diego	91	53	.632	—
San Francisco	78	66	.542	13
Los Angeles	72	72	.500	19
Colorado	67	78	.462	24
Arizona	58	87	.400	33½

WILD CARD STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston	82	60	.577	—
Toronto	78	66	.542	5
Texas	76	67	.531	6½

NATIONAL LEAGUE	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	80	64	.556	—
New York	80	64	.556	—
San Francisco	78	66	.542	2

AMERICAN LEAGUE LEADERS

BATTING–BWilliams, New York, .344; DJeter, New York, .334; MVaughn, Boston, .330; IRodriguez, Texas, .329; TWalker, Minnesota, .322; Belle, Chicago, .322; Garciaparra, Boston, .320.

RUNS–DJeter, New York, 115; ARodriguez, Seattle, 110; Griffey Jr, Seattle, 109; Durham, Chicago, 108; Knoblauch, New York, 105; JnValentin, Boston, 104; Edmonds, Anaheim, 103.

RBI–JuGonzalez, Texas, 149; Belle, Chicago, 132; Griffey Jr, Seattle, 126; MRamirez, Cleveland, 122; ARodriguez, Seattle, 113; RPalmeiro, Baltimore, 113; Garciaparra, Boston, 110; TMartinez, New York, 110.

HITS–ARodriguez, Seattle, 185; DJeter, New York, 183; MVaughn, Boston, 174; Belle, Chicago, 173; O'Neill, New York, 172; Garciaparra, Boston, 169; IRodriguez, Texas, 169.

HOME RUNS–Griffey Jr, Seattle, 50; Belle, Chicago, 45; JuGonzalez, Texas, 41; RPalmeiro, Baltimore, 41; Canseco, Toronto, 41; ARodriguez, Seattle, 39; MRamirez, Cleveland, 38.

STOLEN BASES–Henderson, Oakland, 58; Lofton, Cleveland, 50; Stewart, Toronto, 45; ARodriguez, Seattle, 40; Offerman, Kansas City, 38; BLHunter, Detroit, 35; Nixon, Minnesota, 33.

PITCHING (16 Decisions)–DWells, New York, 17-3, .850, 3.27; PMartinez, Boston, 18-4, .818, 2.71; Cone, New York, 18-5, .783, 3.58; Clemens, Toronto, 18-6, .750, 2.62; Helling, Texas, 18-7, .720, 4.39; Wakefield, Boston, 15-7, .682, 4.58; Rogers, Oakland, 13-7, .650, 3.08.

STRIKEOUTS–Clemens, Toronto, 227; PMartinez, Boston, 219; RJohnson, Seattle, 213; CFinley, Anaheim, 196; Cone, New York, 174; Erickson, Baltimore, 165; Saunders, Tampa Bay, 157.

SAVES–Gordon, Boston, 39; Wetteland, Texas, 39; Percival, Anaheim, 38; MJackson, Cleveland, 38; Agullera, Minnesota, 36; MRivera, New York, 33; JMontgomery, Kansas City, 32.

NATIONAL LEAGUE LEADERS

BATTING–LWalker, Colorado, .354; Olerud, New York, .342; Bichette, Colorado, .331; Castilla, Colorado, .331; Kendall, Pittsburgh, .327; Cirillo, Milwaukee, .326; Gwynn, San Diego, .326.

RUNS–McGwire, St. Louis, 115; Sosa, Chicago, 114; ChJones, Atlanta, 113; Biggio, Houston, 113; Bagwell, Houston, 109; GVaughn, San Diego, 105; LWalker, Colorado, 103.

RBI–Sosa, Chicago, 140; Castilla, Colorado, 128; McGwire, St. Louis, 126; Alou, Houston, 118; Bichette, Colorado, 117; Galarraga, Atlanta, 113; GVaughn, San Diego, 111.

HITS–Bichette, Colorado, 203; Castilla, Colorado, 190; Biggio, Houston, 188; VGuerrero, Montreal, 179; Sosa, Chicago, 178; Vina, Milwaukee, 173; DeBell, Houston, 173.

HOME RUNS–McGwire, St. Louis, 61; Sosa, Chicago, 58; GVaughn, San Diego, 47; Galarraga, Atlanta, 43; Castilla, Colorado, 42; Alou, Houston, 38; VGuerrero, Montreal, 35.

STOLEN BASES–Womack, Pittsburgh, 51; Biggio, Houston, 44; Renteria, Florida, 40; EcYoung, Los Angeles, 39; Floyd, Florida, 27; AJones, Atlanta, 24; QVeras, San Diego, 24.

PITCHING (16 Decisions)–Smoltz, Atlanta, 14-3, .824, 3.13; KBrown, San Diego, 18-5, .783, 2.42; Glavine, Atlanta, 18-8, .750, 2.61; ALeiter, New York, 14-5, .737, 2.39; Tapani, Chicago, 17-7, .708, 4.81; GMaddux, Atlanta, 17-7, .708, 2.07; Gardner, San Francisco, 12-5, .706, 4.66.

STRIKEOUTS–Schilling, Philadelphia, 268; Wood, Chicago, 233; KBrown, San Diego, 227; GMaddux, Atlanta, 179; Reynolds, Houston, 178; Dreifort, Los Angeles, 168; Nomo, New York, 163.

SAVES–Hoffman, San Diego, 48; Beck, Chicago, 44; Shaw, Los Angeles, 40; Nen, San Francisco, 35; JFranco, New York, 33; Urbina, Montreal, 28; BWagner, Houston, 27; Olson, Arizona, 27.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Cleveland 000 001 000– 1 4 0
Toronto 133 300 41x–15 18 0
Ogea, Karsay (3), Villone (5), SReed (7), Poole (8) and SAlomar, ELDiaz (7); Escober, Risley (9) and Fletcher. KLBrown (6). W–Escober, 5-2. L–Ogea, 4-3. HRs–Toronto, Stewart (7), Canseco (41), C.Delgado (29).

Minnesota 000 000 000–0 3 3
Texas 000 000 60x–6 10 0
Hawkins, Guardado (7), Ritchie (8) and JvValentin; Helling and Haselman. W–Helling, 18-7. L–Hawkins, 7-14. HRs–Texas, McLemore (6), Ju.Gonzalez (41).

New York 200 010 000–3 6 0
Boston 000 000 31x–4 6 0
D.Wells and Posada; Avery, Eckersley (8), Swindell (8), Gordon (9) and Varitek. W–Swindell, 5-5. L–D.Wells, 17-3. Sv–Gordon (39). HR–Boston, Jn.Valentin (20).

Detroit 030 000 020–5 10 1
Chicago 301 010 11x–7 8 0
Moehler, Brunson (7), Santana (7) and Bako; Parque, C.Castillo (6), Bradford (9) and Machado. W–Parque, 8-5. L–Moehler, 12-13. Sv–Bradford (1). HRs–Detroit, Randa (6). Chicago, F.Thomas (26), Belle (45), Ventura (18), M.Ordonez (14).

Baltimore 000 100 000–1 3 0
Seattle 202 025 00x–11 15 1
Drabek, P.Smith (4), Key (6), Coppinger (6) and Hoiles, C.Greene (7), Moyer, Swift (8), Slocumb (9) and Marzano.
W–Moyer, 13-8. L–Drabek, 8-11. HRs–Seattle, A.Rodriguez (39), Griffey Jr. 2 (50), E.Martinez (26).

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Florida 010 012 000–10 16 1
Colorado 201 155 10x–15 21 0
L.Hernandez, Speier (5), Ludwick (6), Pall (6) and Zaun; Astacio, Wainhouse (4), Veres (6), Leskanic (6), McElroy (8) and Manwaring, J.Reed (8). W–Leskanic, 6-3. L–Ludwick, 1-4. HRs–Florida, Orie (6), Zaun (5). Colorado, L.Walker 2 (22), Castilla (42), Lansing (9).

Milwaukee 210 000 201–6 8 0
Pittsburgh 012 000 000–3 6 2
Roque, Plunk (7), CFox (8), Wickman (9) and Hughes; Dessens, Tahoka (7), Van Poppel (7), Rincon (8), McClurry (9), Christiansen (9) and Oak, Kendall (9). W–Roque, 4-1. L–Dessens, 2-3. Sv–Wickman (22). HRs–Milwaukee, Nilsson (11), Newfield (3). Pittsburgh, J.Guillen (12).

Chicago 000 000 110–2 9 0
St. Louis 110 000 10x–3 5 1
Morgan, Karchner (7), Rdn.Myers (8) and Servais; D.Oliver, Palmer (7), Busby (7), Eversgerd (8), Acevedo (9) and Marrero. W–D.Oliver, 3-2. L–Morgan, 0-1. Sv–Acevedo (6). HRs–Chicago, Gaetti (15). St. Louis, DeShields (6), McGwire (61), Marrero (4).

Atlanta 000 205 000–7 10 0
New York 031 020 02x–8 11 0
Chen, DeJ.Martinez (4), A.Butler (6), Perez (6), Rocker (8) and Edd.Perez; Yoshii, Blair (4), Beltran (4), Wendell (5), McMichael (8), J.Franco (9) and Piazza. W–McMichael, 3-4. L–Rocker, 1-2. Sv–J.Franco (33). HRs–Atlanta, A.Jones (26). New York, Phillips (3), Alfonzo (16), L.Lopez (2).

Cincinnati 000 000 000–0 6 0
Houston 000 001 00x–1 4 2
Parris, Graves (8) and Fordyce, Taubensee (8); R.Johnson and Ausmus. W–R.Johnson, 7-1. L–Parris, 4-4. HR–Houston, De.Bell (19).

Los Angeles 000 100 001–2 6 2
Arizona 100 020 10x–4 7 0
Mlicki, Weaver (8) and C.Johnson; Andy Benes, Olson (9) and Miller. W–Andy Benes, 12-13. L–Mlicki, 8-7. Sv–Olson (27). HRs–Los Angeles, Karros (22). Arizona, T.Batista (15).

San Francisco 000 003 020–5 9 0
San Diego 100 011 100–4 10 1
Ortiz, R.Rodriguez (6), Tavarez (7), Mesa (8), Nen (9) and B.Johnson; Spencer, Re.Myers (8), Miceli (8), Wall (9) and G.Myers. W–Tavarez, 4-3. L–Re.Myers 1-1. Sv–Nen (35). HRs–San Francisco, J.Kent (28). San Diego, Caminiti (28), G.Myers (4).

Broncos start season on right hoof

DENVER (AP) – This was the old John Elway, not old John Elway, at quarterback for Denver.

Playing more like a 28-year-old than a 38-year-old, Elway threw for 257 yards and a touchdown as the Broncos beat New England 27-21 Monday night to begin defense of their NFL title and what is more than likely to be Elway's final season.

Terrell Davis added two rushing touchdowns as Denver beat New England for the 11th straight time dating to 1980.

"John played a heck of a game," Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said. "About the only mistake he made, he underthrew a ball and it still went for a 50-yard completion."

But the Patriots, who had lost their previous three games to Denver by a combined 105-24, gave the Broncos plenty of help.

They committed three critical penalties on special teams, two of which cost them 48 yards and were offside on another punt that let the Broncos continue a touchdown drive. Adam Vinatieri missed a 39-yard field-goal attempt and had another blocked by Trevor Pryce.

New England also was disorganized on the sidelines, using their timeouts unwisely.

Still, this wasn't easy for Denver, which had a 17-0 lead early in the second quarter on a 12-yard pass from Elway to Shannon Sharpe, a 9-yard run by Davis, and Jason Elam's 53-yard field goal.

New England cut it to 17-7 at halftime when Drew Bledsoe's 55-yard pass to Shawn Jefferson set up Robert Edwards' 1-yard TD run. Then, on the first series of the second half, the Patriots drove 73 yards in seven plays for a score – Bledsoe's 24-yard pass to Troy Brown that made it 20-14 But Elam countered with a 42-yard field goal and the Broncos clinched it on Davis' 1-yard score which came one after a vintage Elway play – a scrambling third-down pass to Ed McCaffrey at the 1, pursued by three Patriots.

That drive was aided by another New England mistake, a late hit on Elway by Willie McGinest.

New England 0 7 7 7–21
Denver 10 7 0 7–27
First Quarter: Den–FG Elam 53, 12:31. Den–Sharpe 12 pass from Elway (Elam kick), 1:40. Second Quarter: Den–Davis 9 run (Elam kick), 9:28. NE–Edwards 1 run (Vinatieri kick), 5:17. Third Quarter: NE–TBrown 24 pass from Bledsoe (Vinatieri kick), 12:21. Den–FG Elam 42, 7:44. Fourth Quarter: Den–Davis 1 run (Elam kick), 10:51. NE–Brisby 10 pass from Bledsoe (Vinatieri kick), 1:59. A–75,852.

Sunday games: Baltimore at NY Jets, Buffalo at Miami, Carolina at New Orleans, Chicago at Pittsburgh, Cincinnati at Detroit, IC at Jacksonville, Minnesota at St. Louis, Philadelphia at Atlanta, San Diego at Tennessee, Tampa Bay at Green Bay, Arizona at Seattle, Dallas at Denver, NY Giants at Oakland, Indianapolis at New England.
Monday's game: San Francisco at Washington.

Speculation centers on Vogts' successor

FRANKFURT (AP) – While Berti Vogts sought police protection from reporters, former Real Madrid coach Jupp Heynckes yesterday turned down an offer to become Vogts' successor as German national team boss.

One day after Vogts resigned, Heynckes said he would not be available for the job.

"For personal reasons, I have to turn down the offer to train the national team," Heynckes said in a statement.

"Worries about the condition of my wife ... leave me at the moment no time for the necessary intensive preparation of the German team for the European Championship qualifying game in Turkey in October," Heynckes said.

His wife, Iris, is suffering from blood pressure problems after two operations and has been hospitalized.

Heynckes, who was sacked from Real Madrid this summer despite guiding the Spanish club to the Champions Cup title, had been the top candidate to take over Vogts' job.

His refusal to step in creates more problems for the German soccer, which is in a deep slump following its ouster by Croatia in the quarterfinals of the World Cup this summer in France.

Germany begins the defense of its European title by traveling to Turkey for a tricky qualifying match October 10.

Meanwhile, the media-shy Vogts remained cloistered in his house in Korschenbroich, near Duesseldorf, and sought police protection from reporters.

"I am being hunted in my own home like a wild animal," Vogts told the German sports news agency SID, but refused to give any interviews.

Vogts' relations with reporters always have been tense.

Dozens of reporters and camera crews have been assembled in front of his house since Vogts' resignation became known Monday.

Police came at least twice to ask reporters to leave.

"We are still watching the area," police spokesman Wilfried Goertz said.

Vogts stepped down after eight years in the job following relentless criticism from the press over Germany's World Cup failure and dismal performances in two exhibition matches last week.

With Heynckes declining the job, the German soccer federation will have to search elsewhere to find a coach quickly.

Three Bundesliga coaches have been mentioned as possible candidates, but all three have contracts with their clubs.

The leading candidate now seems to be Christoph Daum, whose contract with Bayer Leverkusen runs through 2001. There was speculation yesterday that Daum could remain Leverkusen coach until the end of the season while doubling as national team chief.

Earlier this summer, Vogts had mentioned Daum as his best possible successor.

Another candidate, Ottmar Hitzfeld, is in his first season with Bayern Munich, which wants to regain the Bundesliga title and go far in the Champions League.

Franz Beckenbauer, Bayern chairman, said the club would not release Hitzfeld for national team duty.

Otto Rehhagel, who took Kaiserslautern from the second division to the Bundesliga title last season, is another candidate. He declined to comment.

While the name of former Dutch star Johan Cruyff also has been mentioned, the German soccer federation is unlikely to go for a foreign coach.

World Cup coaches' toll reaches 21

LONDON (Reuters) – The resignations of Germany's Berti Vogts and Bulgaria's Hristo Bonev this week means 21 of the 32 coaches at the World Cup in France have now left their posts.

The following is a list of the departures since the start of the World Cup tournament, which ran from June 10 to July 12 (replacements, to be announced unless stated):

Argentina – Daniel Passarella, resigned and replaced by Marcelo Bielsa.
Brazil – Mario Zagallo, sacked and replaced by Vanderley Luxemburgo.
Bulgaria – Hristo Bonev, resigned.
Cameroon – Claude Le Roy, end of contract.
Colombia – Hernan Dario Gomez, end of contract.
Germany – Berti Vogts, resigned.
France – Aime Jacquet, end of contract, replaced by Roger Lemerre.
Iran – Jalal Talebi, resigned and replaced by Mansour Pourheidari.
Italy – Cesare Maldini, resigned and replaced by Dino Zoff.
Japan – Takeshi Okada, resigned and replaced by Philip.
Netherlands – Guus Hiddink, end of contract replaced by Frank Rijkaard.
Nigeria – Bora Milutinovic, end of contract, replaced by Thijs Libregts.
Norway – Egil Olsen, resigned and replaced by Nils Johan Semb.
Paraguay – Paulo Cesar Carpeggiani, end of contract.
Romania – Anghel Iordanescu, end of contract, replaced by Victor Piturca.
Saudia Arabia – Carlos Alberto Parreira, sacked and replaced by Otto Pfister.
South Africa – Philippe Troussier, end of contract.
South Korea – Cha Bum-kun, sacked and replaced by Kim Mung-seok.
Tunisia – Henri Kasperczak, sacked and replaced by Francesco Scoglio.
United States – Steve Sampson, resigned.
Yugoslavia – Slobodan Santrac, retired and replaced by Milan Zivadinovic.

The 11 coaches remaining in their posts are: Glenn Hoddle (England), Rene Simoes (Jamaica), Manuel Lapuente (Mexico), Javier Clemente (Spain), Henri Michel (Morocco), Craig Brown (Scotland), Georges Leekens (Belgium), Herbert Prohaska (Austria), Bo Johansson (Denmark), Miroslav Blazevic (Croatia) and Nelson Acosta (Chile).

Lancs sign Sri Lankan spinner Muralitharan

MANCHESTER (Reuters) – Off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, who last week captured the fifth best match haul in Test cricket, has signed an English county side Lancashire's overseas player for next season.

Muralitharan took 16 for 220 in Sri Lanka's 10-wicket victory over England in a one-off test at The Oval.

He will join Lancashire after the World Cup next summer on a one-year deal.

"This is a major signing for the county," said Lancashire chairman Jack Simmons yesterday.

"He is one of the world's outstanding talents." Muralitharan will replace Pakistan's Wasim Akram as the club's one permitted overseas player, although Lancashire have kept the door open for Akram to return in the year 2000.

"Wasim has been a great ambassador for the club and I've told him he can be in the equation for the year 2000 if everything works out," said Simmons.

However, Akram made it clear he would listen to offers from elsewhere in England or abroad.

"I believe I have got a couple of years left in me at the highest level," the 32-year-old said. "I've had a great time at Lancashire but if I get a good enough offer I could end up playing somewhere else."

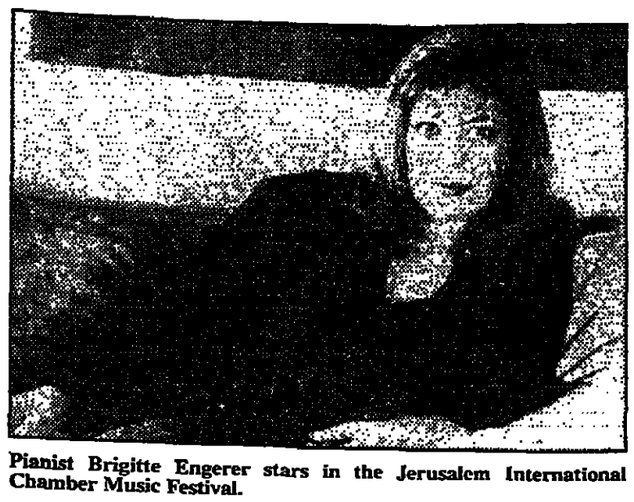
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CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT



Pianist Brigitte Engerer stars in the Jerusalem International Chamber Music Festival.

The Israel Camerata Jerusalem opens its season tonight at 8:30 at the Wix Auditorium in Rehovot with two motets for soprano and orchestra by Vivaldi, Bach's *Musical Offering* and Respighi's *Gli Uccelli*. Music director Avner Biron is on the podium and the soloist is Scottish soprano Lorna Anderson.

Further concerts take place Friday at 2 p.m, Saturday and Sunday at 8:30 p.m. at the Tel Aviv Museum and Monday at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem at 9 p.m.

Wien, Wein, Weib ("Vienna, Wine, Women") is the title of this evening's concert within the Jerusalem International Chamber Music Festival where the program includes Mozart's "Kegelstadt" trio, Schubert's famous string quintet and two waltzes by Johann Strauss junior in special arrangements by Alban Berg and Anton Webern. 7 p.m. at the Jerusalem Khan Theater with Elena Bashkirova, Brigitte Engerer, Bruno Canino, Renaud Capucon, Rocco Philippini and others.

DANCE

HELEN KAYE

Ruth Ziv-Eyal is a thoughtful, sensitive choreographer whose ardent yet tough-minded *Mangroosim* is passionately realized by dancer/actress Avital Yitzhari-Mizlin. *Mangroosim* uses stones as the markers of a woman's journey through life. At ZOA House tonight and tomorrow at 9 p.m. Friday at 2 p.m.

RADIO

■ VOICE OF MUSIC

6:05 Muret, Clarke, Purcell, Torelli: Trumpet Fanfares; Reicha: Wind Quintet in A minor op 100/5 (Aulos Quintet) 7:15 Glazunov: Concerto-Ballade for Cello and Orchestra; Britten: Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings op 31 8:05 Verdi: selections from Aida 9:05 Dvorak: String Serenade in E; Schumann: Piano Concerto op 54; Mozart: Sinfonia Concertante for Violin, Viola and Orchestra K364; Brahms: Symphony no 2; Mozart: Symphony no 36 "Linz" K425 (English CO / Barenboim) 12:00 Light Classical – music from the films of Charlie Chaplin 13:00 Artist of the Week – Mitzuko Uchida, piano. Debussy: Etudes – Books 1 and 2 14:06 Encore 15:00 Keys - works by Boslovich, Orgad and Bazevich 16:05 Bach: Cantata no 51; Beethoven/Liszt: Symphony no 5 in C minor; Schoenberg: String Quartet op 10 18:00 Gounod/Bach: Ave Maria ; Fauré: Sicilienne; Hahn: Song; Chopin: 3 Etudes (Chung); Debussy: Petite Suite; Lalo: Piano Trio op 7; Kreisler: Die schöne Rosmarin 19:05 The International Chamber Music Festival, Jerusalem, live broadcast - Haydn: Trio for Flute, Cello and Piano in G major; Mozart: "Kegelstadt" Trio for Piano, Clarinet and Viola K498; Schubert: Quintet for Strings in C major D956; J.Strauss/Berg: Wine, Women and Song for Piano, Harmonium, 2 Violins, Viola and Cello; J.Strauss/Webern: Waltz of Sounds for Piano, Harmonium, 2 Violins, Viola and Cello 23:00 Golden Generation – Sergei Rachmaninoff, piano. Works by Rachmaninoff, Moszkowski, Chopin and Tchaikowsky (recordings from the years 1923, 1925-7, 1930, 1934, 1942)

■ RADIOWEST

CNN news on the hour followed by RadioWEST local news 6:00 Morning Drive (until 9:00) – Music with David Starck 7:30 English Newspaper Headlines 7:45 Sports Update with Danny Gewirtz 8:08 Lion's Trust Financial Update 9:00 Morning Brunch (until 12:00) – Music with Sharon Wagner 10:00 Financial Forum with Mike Humphries 12:00 Head to Head – political forum with Charlie Levine and Dr. Tom Gumpel 13:00 Windows on the World 13:30 Pick of the Hits with Donna Abraham 15:00 Music with Aaron Katsman 17:00 Afternoon Drive (until 19:00) – with Michael Reinis 17:45 Sports Update with Danny Gewirtz 19:00 Lonely Soul in Town with David Bender 20:45 Jerusalem Post Sports – tomorrow's sports tonight – with Joe Hoffman and Ori Lewis 21:00 Gesher presents "The Great Divide" – Panel Discussion 22:00 WestRock with David Suskauer 1:00 Late Night Music

■ BBC WORLD SERVICE

6:00 News 6:05 World Business Report 6:15 Sports Roundup 6:30 Insight 6:45 Off the Shelf: Human Croquet, part 1 7:00 The World Today 7:30 Outlook 7:55 Take Five 8:00 The World Today 8:30 One Planet 9:00 News 9:15 Insight 9:30 Sports International 10:00 News 10:15 Off the Shelf: Human Croquet, part 1 10:30 Merid ian Live 11:00 News 11:10 Pause For Thought 11:15 Westway 11:30 Everywoman 12:00 News 12:05 World Business Report 12:15 *The Farming World* 12:30 Britain Now (BBC English) 12:45 Sports Roundup 13:00 Newsdesk 13:30 One Planet 14:00 Newsdesk 14:30 Sports International 15:00 News 15:05 World Business Report 15:15 Britain Today 15:30 Heads And Tails 15:45 Sports Roundup 16:00 Newshour 17:00 News 17:05 Outlook 17:30 Megamix 18:00 News 18:05 Sports Roundup 18:15 Performance 18:30 Everywoman 19:00 Europe Today 19:30 World Business Report 19:45 Britain Today 20:00 News 20:15 Insight 20:30 F.O.O.C. 20:45 Sports Roundup 21:00 Newsdesk 21:30 Eromia '98 22:29 News Summary 22:30 Pause For Thought 22:30 Multitrack X-Press 23:00 Newshour 00:00 News

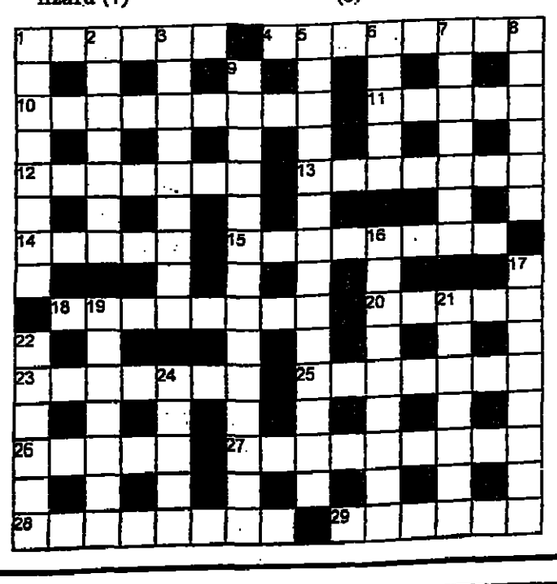
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

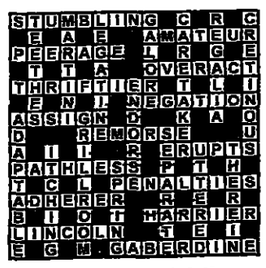
1 It was twice rejected by an Italian master (6)
4 Look along line that's more revealing (8)
10 My pounds 'e exchanged using a fictitious name (9)
11 Andrew struggling lost his right when it became smaller (5)
12 Retains another solid part of the fat (7)
13 Circular piece stated to be outside (7)
14 Get to care about Henry (5)
15 Reserve cancelled (3,5)
18 Left space on a ship (8)
20 Film star on the roof (5)
23 Keep an eye on the lizard (7)
25 It could wound a girl (7)
26 Of a town that is less than civilised (5)
27 Mole who worked on the new Channel link? (9)
28 It might be played on the lawn in summer (8)
29 An intimate acquaintance in society (6)

DOWN

1 *Records attempt at* hanging (8)
2 Girl slumping, sat round here (7)
3 Last horde rampaging in town in southern England (9)
5 Arrive—on stage (4,2,3,5)
6 Catch, going round a point, a Moslem prince (5)
7 Made light of the clumsy editing (7)
8 Screen that's full of holes (6)
9 Very close—just outside! (2,4,8)
16 Prophet and what he had first, a tourist! (9)
17 Large number made certain it was condemned (8)
19 Disorderly mob in America found the vehicle (7)
21 It is read with feeling (7)
22 In the morning, take cover from a surprise attack (6)
24 Not literally travelling at 100 mph (3-2)



SOLUTIONS

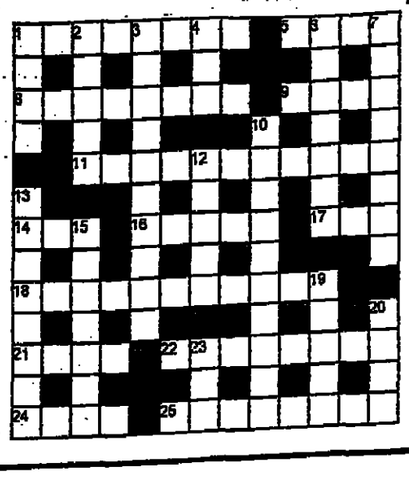


Yesterday's Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Restore, 5 Aunts, 8 False, 9 Reading, 10 Eminent, 11 Adept, 12 Deride, 14 Strand, 17 Sewer, 19 Request, 22 Upstart, 23 Erase, 24 Egret, 25 Serpent.

DOWN: 1 Rifle, 2 Soldier, 3 Obese, 4 Errata, 5 Adamant, 6 Naive, 7 Sighted, 12 Dispute, 13 Dormant, 15 Average, 16 Gratis, 18 Wiser, 20 Queer, 21 Tweet.

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Agreeable (8)
5 eg Oak (4)
8 Part of one's address (8)
9 Speech defect (4)
11 Concluded (4,2,2,3)
14 Place (3)
16 Wooden shoe (5)
17 Expression of impatience (3)
18 Accidental (11)
21 Large bay (4)
22 Altering (anag.) (8)
24 Pig flesh (4)
25 Sewn (8)

DOWN

1 RC church head (4)
2 Lessened (5)
3 Consecutive (10)
4 Incline head (3)
6 Clothing (7)
7 Speed up (8)
10 Parapet (10)
12 Italian river (5)
13 Begin suddenly (6,2)
15 Towed vehicle (7)
19 Pentateuch (5)
20 Trudge (4)
23 eg Almond (3)

TV

■ CHANNEL 1 (11)

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel

■ EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 Australian Wild
8:30 Family Album
9:00 Guitar for Beginners
9:30 Communications
10:00 For the very young
11:00 Mathematics
12:20 Science and Nature
13:30 Hanni's Room
15:00 Sesame Street

■ CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 Casper
15:50 Eli and Lily and Garfield
16:45 Wolves, Witches and Giants
18:59 A New Evening
17:34 The Biz
18:00 Fairy Tales
18:10 Dudu's Adventures
18:15 *News in English*

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Diving Magic
18:45 A Woman's Angle
19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS

19:10 *Oh, Dr. Beeching!*
20:00 News
20:10 Talk of the Day
20:25 Are You Being Served?
21:00 News
21:30 The Entertainment Biz
22:20 Brooklyn South
23:05 Home Improvement
23:30 News
00:00 Verse of the Day

■ CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's programs
5:55 On the Edge of the Shelf
6:00 Rupert Bear
6:30 Choco with Tel-Ad
6:43 Coffee with Tel-Ad
9:00 The Third Time
9:55 Thirty Something
10:50 Promised Land
11:40 Empty Nest
12:05 Brotherly Love
12:30 Amazing Stories
13:00 Spellbinder
13:30 New Vision
14:00 Home and Away
14:30 Tick Tack
15:00 Disney Time
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:50 Different Driving
17:00 Five with Rafi Reshef
17:30 Live Soccer – local league
20:00 News
20:30 Shining
22:00 Sussita in Space
22:45 *The Beast*
00:00 News flash
00:05 The Beast – contd.
00:40 M*A*S*H
1:10 The Red Sea Jazz Festival
2:55 Out of This World
3:20 Song for the Day

■ JORDAN TV (31)
(unconfirmed)

14:00 Holy Koran
14:10 Mr. Bogus
14:30 Oliver Twist
15:00 Musical Magazine
16:00 Oshoe
17:00 Acapulco Bay
18:00 Le Journal
18:15 French Show
18:30 News Headlines
18:35 Partners
19:00 Our Special Reporter
19:30 Faces and Places
20:00 Local Magazine
20:15 Kung Fu
21:00 News in English
21:30 Miniseries

■ MIDDLE EAST TV (24/27)

14:00 Richard Scary
14:30 Popeye
15:00 Wishbone
15:30 Jack Hanna
16:00 CNN News
16:30 Arabic News
17:00 Candid Camera
18:00 Homicide
19:00 Sirenes
20:00 The Capa
20:45 English League Soccer

CABLE

■ CHANNEL 3

7:00 Good Evening
7:30 ETV: Kevin Bacon
8:00 Celeste
9:00 One Life to Live (rpt)
9:45 The Young and the Restless
10:30 Days of Our Lives (rpt)
11:15 Angels Don't Cry (rpt)
12:00 Ricki Lake
12:45 Hart to Hart
13:30 Wings
14:00 Bewitched
14:25 I Dream of Jeannie
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:35 Judge Judy
16:00 Angels Don't Cry
16:45 One Life to Live
17:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyes
18:00 Good Evening
18:30 Local Broadcast
19:00 The Young and the Restless
19:40 Melrose Place
20:25 La Femme Nikita
21:10 Mad About You
21:35 Veronica's Closet
22:00 Yair Lapid Live at 10
22:30 Seinfeld (rpt)
23:25 Ricki Lake (rpt)
00:05 Sentinel
00:45 Renegade
1:20 The New Untouchables

■ MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Bridge of Time (1996) – three adventurers in Africa clash over a hidden "El Dorado."
13:05 Mighty Joe Young (1949) – a girl who has brought up her pet gorilla, Joe, since she was a child is seduced by a Hollywood promoter to bring the gorilla back to America, where he is exploited. With Terry Moore
14:45 Kissing Miranda (1995) – a salesman who is about to marry his boss falls in love with his best friend's mail-order bride. With Larry Poindexter
16:30 Sweet Dreams (1996) – a young woman with amnesia is abused by her husband and his mistress and must fight to recover her memory. With David Newsom, Tiffani-Amber Thiessen and Amy Yasbec
18:00 *Tell Me No Secrets* (1996) – an assistant DA is harassed by a rape suspect
19:35 Renegade
20:20 The Staircase (1997) – a nun supervising the construction of a church discovers that the architect neglected to plan stairs leading up to the choir. With Barbara Hershey
22:00 Death Train (1993) – adaptation of Alistair MacLean's story about a renegade Soviet general who threatens to destroy the world with stolen nuclear bombs. With Pierce Brosnan
23:40 Street Gun (1996) – a bumbling hoodlum is taken into a gangster organization. With Scott Cooke
1:10 Salvador (1986) – Oliver Stone drama based on the true experiences of journalist Richard Boyle in El Salvador of 1980, documenting the military dictatorship. With James Woods, James Belushi and John Savage
3:10 Bounty Hunters (1995, 93 mins.) – a headhunter in the pay of the police tracks a murderous gang. With Michael Dudikoff

■ CHILDREN (6)

8:30 Cartoons
9:00 Oaky Doky
9:15 Herlutts
9:35 Oliver Twist
10:05 The Smurfs
10:35 Ninja Turtles
11:00 Batman and Robin
11:25 Twins of Destiny
11:50 Ned's Newt
12:20 Different World
12:45 *Moesha*
13:30 Barney
14:00 Arthur
14:30 The Smurfs
15:00 Ninja Turtles
15:30 Batman and Robin
15:55 Twins of Destiny
16:20 Space Gools
16:50 Family Matters
17:20 Helen and the Boys
17:45 Chiquititas
18:30 Moesha
19:00 Step By Step
19:30 Family Matters
19:55 Married with Children
20:20 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
20:45 Full House
21:10 Beverly Hills 90210

■ SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:00 Wedding Rehearsal (1932, 75 *mins.*) –Alexander Korda comedy about a naval officer whose grandmother is forever trying to marry him off. With Merle Oberon and Roland Young
23:20 Crumb (1994, 120 mins.) – a portrait of one of America's most important underground comic artists, Robert Crumb, the creator of Fritz the Cat.

■ CHANNEL 8

6:00 Open University
8:00 Endangered Series: Wolverines and Oil (rpt)
8:30 Beyond 2000 (rpt)
9:00 Understanding Beauty
9:50 Mozart: The Marriage of Figaro, part 2
11:30 Silent Feminist – documentary about early women film-directors
12:15 Life in the Wild (rpt)
12:40 Coltrane's Trains and Autos, part 1
13:10 Future Quest: Virtual Reality (rpt)
13:40 Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (rpt)
14:05 On the Nature of Love
15:05 Shadows on the Street – the horrifying story of Rio de Janeiro's street children
16:00 Green Plans
17:00 Open University: Oil; *Everybody's Business*; Nutrition Pathways
19:05 Life in the Wild, part 8
19:30 Coltrane's Trains and Autos, part 2
20:00 Future Quest
20:30 Mysteries, Magic and Miracles
21:00 Bertrand Russell
22:00 Seven Sins: Lust
22:30 Life in the Wild
23:00 Coltrane's Trains and Autos (see 19:30)
23:30 Open University: Sexual Encounters Flora: Government by Consent; The Hermitage

■ STAR WORLD (13/15)

6:00 Bergerac
7:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
8:00 Santa Barbara
9:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
9:30 Nanny and the Professor
10:00 Porridge
10:30 Swiftly Seasoned
11:00 Saber Rider and the Star Sheriffs
11:30 Small Wonder
12:00 Code 3
12:30 Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures
13:00 The Simpsons
13:30 The Wonder Years
14:00 Baywatch Nights
15:00 The Knock
16:00 NYPD Blue
17:00 Santa Barbara
18:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
18:30 The Simpsons
19:00 Baywatch Nights
20:00 The Knock
21:00 NYPD Blue
22:00 To Serve Them All My Days
23:00 Bergerac
00:00 Aerobics Oz Style
00:30 Terry Toons
1:00 Code 3
1:30 Jack Hanna's Animal Adventure
2:00 Hawaii Cooks
2:30 Aerobics Oz Style

■ BBC WORLD (13/14)

News on the hour
6:30 Reporters (rpt)
7:30 The Travel Show (rpt)
8:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
9:30 Earth Report: Columbia (rpt)
10:30 Reporters (rpt)
11:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
12:30 The Air Show (rpt)
13:00 The World Today
14:30 Africa's Big Game, part 4
15:00 World News and Business Report
15:30 The World Today
16:30 *The Skeleton Coast* (rpt)
17:30 Hard Talk
18:30 Quiz Show (rpt)
19:00 The World Today
20:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
21:30 Decisive Weapons: The Hawk
22:00 World News and Business Report
22:30 Top Gear Waterworld
23:10 Europe Direct
00:30 World Business Report
00:45 Asia Today (rpt)
1:05 USA Direct
1:30 Reporters (rpt)
2:30 The Travel Show (rpt)

■ CNN INTERNATIONAL (12)

News throughout the day
6:00 CNN This Morning
8:30 Insight
7:00 CNN This Morning
7:30 Moneyline (rpt)
8:00 CNN This Morning
8:30 World Sports
9:00 CNN This Morning
9:30 Showbiz Today
10:00 Larry King (rpt)
11:30 World Sport
12:30 American Edition
12:45 *World Report*: As They See It
13:30 Business Unusual
14:15 News and Business Asia
15:30 CNN Newsroom
16:30 World Sport
17:30 Style!
18:00 Larry King Live (rpt)
18:45 American Edition
20:30 World Business Today
21:30 Q&A with Riz Khan
22:00 News Europe
22:30 Insight
23:00 World Business Today
23:30 World Sport
00:00 World View
00:30 Moneyline
1:30 Showbiz Today
2:15 Asian Edition
2:30 Q&A (rpt)

■ SKY NEWS (14/13)

News on the hour
6:30 ABC World News
7:00 Sunrise
11:30 ABC Nightline
12:30 Sky World News
13:30 On the Line
14:30 Sky World News
17:30 Sky World News
18:00 Live at Five
20:30 Sportline
21:30 Business Report
22:30 Sky World News
23:00 Prime Time
1:30 CBS Evening News
2:30 ABC World News
23:15 TV Shopping

■ ITV 3 (33)

18:00 Animation
18:45 Amores
17:30 Day to day
18:00 Animation
18:15 No Dear Husband
19:00 Arabic News
19:30 Telekassel
20:00 Medicine
20:30 News Room
21:00 News
21:30 Cruises to a World of Discovery
22:30 Scent of Mint

■ ETV 2 (23)

15:30 Mathica's Mathop
15:45 Mathematics
16:00 Fairy Tales
17:00 Arabic Stories
18:00 Pique Nique
18:30 A Matter of Taste
19:00 Simply Style
19:25 Little Big Country
19:30 New Evening
20:00 Vis-a-vis
20:30 Medicine Demystified
20:43 Little Big Country
20:45 Border Line
22:00 Star Trek – Deep Space 9
22:45 Long Search

■ CHANNEL 5 (05)

6:00 Bodies In Motion
16:00 Bodies In Motion
16:30 MLS Soccer
17:45 Rugby
18:15 Motorsports
18:45 International Baseball
19:30 Sports News
20:00 International Baseball – contd.
22:45 English League Soccer

■ EUROSPORT (15/16)

9:30 Soccer
11:00 Cycling
12:00 Xtrem Sports
13:00 Motocross
13:30 Water Skiing
14:00 Sailing
14:30 Canoeing
15:00 Golf
16:00 Live Cycling – Tour of Spain
18:00 Motorsports
20:00 Xtrem Sports
21:00 Bowling
22:00 Trickshot
00:00 Fitness
1:00 Motorsports
2:00 Xtrem Sports

PRIME TIME TV

	1	2	3	4	5	8
19:30			Melrose Place	Renegade	Family Matters Married With Children	Coltrane's Trains and Autos Future Quest
20:00	News Talk of the Day	News	La Femme Nikita	The Staircase	Fresh Prince of Bel Air	
20:30	Are You Being Served	Shining			Full House	Mysteries Magic and Miracles
21:00	News		Mad About You Veronica's Closet		Beverly Hills 90210	Bertrand Russel
21:30	The Entertainment Biz	Sussita in Space	Yair Lapid Live at 10	Death Train	Wedding Rehearsal	Seven Sins
22:00	Brooklyn South	The Beast	Seinfeld			Life in the Wild
22:30	Home Improvement					Coltrane's Trains
23:00						

MOVIES

JERUSALEM
CINEMATHEQUE Aliens 5 • She's So Lovely 7:45 • Les Diaboliques 9:30 • Jackie Brown 10 **G.G. GIL** Jerusalem Mall (Malha) ☎ 6788448 Grease∞The Borrowers∞Mouse Hunt 4:45 • Paulie ∞Superboy∞The Magic Sword *(Hebrew dialogue)* 4:45 • Twilight 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Big Lebowski∞High Art 7:15, 10 • City of Angels∞Species II∞The Avengers 7:15, 10 • Lethal Weapon IV Sat. 10:30 • Red Corner 7:15, 10 • Lethal Weapon 4:30, 7:15, 10 **JERUSALEM THEATER** The Spanish Prisoner 7, 9:30 • The King of Masks 7, 9:30 **RAV CHEN 1-7** ☎ 6792799 Credit Card Reservations ☎ 6794477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Ha'oman St., Talpiot Mafia! 5, 7:30, 9:45 • 6 Days 7 Nights 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Armageddon 4, 7, 9:45 • The Leading Man 9:45 • Titanic 5, 8:45 • The Horse Whisperer 9:45 • Pipi Longstocking ∞Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* Sat. 11 a.m. • Godzilla 4:30, 7, 9:45 • Dr. Dolittle 5, 7:30 • Parent Trap 4:45, 7:15 **MEVASSERET ZION G.G. GIL** ☎ 5700868 Armageddon 4:15, 7, 10 • The Horse Whisperer 6:15, 9:15 **SMADAR** ☎ 5618168 A Price Above Rubies 5, 7:30, 10
TEL AVIV
DIZENGOFF Spanish Prisoner 11 a.m., 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10 • On connait la chanson∞The Real Blonde 11 a.m., 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10 **GAT** ☎ 6967888 The Horse Whisperer 6:30, 9:45 **GLOBUS** ☎6081130/1 Twilight 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10 • Species II 5, 7:30, 10 • The Magic Sword 11:30 a.m., 2 • City of Angels 7:30, 10 • Superboy∞Paulie 11:30 a.m., 2, 5 • The Big Lebowski ∞Lethal Weapon IV 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Grease 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30 • High Art 7:30, 10 • The Borrowers 11:30 a.m., 2, 5 • The Avengers 7:30, 10 **G.G. HOD 1–4** ☎ 5226226 Hod Passage, 101 Dizengoff St. Lethal Weapon IV 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Grease 5, 7:30 • Live Flesh 10 ∞City of Angels∞Species II 5, 7:30, 10 **LEV** ☎5288288 A Price Above Rubies 11 a.m., 1:45, 5, 7:30, 10 • He Got Game 11 a.m., 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10 • *Kundun* 11:30 a.m., 2, 7:30 • Good Will Hunting 11 a.m., 1:45, 7, 9:45 • Sweet Hereafter 7:30, 10 • Pillow Book 4:45 **LEV AVIV** ☎6417148 He Got Game 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Kundun 11:15 a.m., 2:30, 7:30, 10 • Sweet Hereafter 11 a.m., 5, 7:15, 10 • Brassed Off 11 a.m., 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10 • *Carla's Song 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 5, 7:30,* 10 • Welcome to the Doll's House 11 a.m., 2:30, 5 **LIMOR** ☎6968084 Shall We Dance 6, 9:45 • Empire of the Senses 8 **MAGNIFICENT SIX** ☎6886865 Operation Delta Force 2 12 noon, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 • Looking for Lola 12 noon, 4, 6, 8 • Sinbad 12 noon, 2, 4, 6 • Azit 12 noon, 4 • Hard Men 8, 10 • Men Always Lie 2, 6, 8 • Monty Python and the Holy Grail 4, 10 • Funny Games 8 • Tromeo and Juliet 8 • Trainspotting 10 • Great Troubles *(Hebrew)* 2, 6 • Toxic Avenger 12 noon, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 • The Fifth Element 2, 10 **G.G. PE'ER** ☎5442141 *High Art*∞City of Angels∞The Avengers 5, 7:30, 10 • The Big Lebowski4:45, 7:15, 10 **RAV-CHEN** ☎ 5282288 Dizengoff Circle 6 Days 7 Nights 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Mafia! 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Armageddon 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:45 • Mulan *(English dialogue)* 7:30, 9:45• Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 2:30, 5 • Godzilla 1:45, 4:15, 7:15, 9:45 • Wild Things 9:45 • Dr. Dolittle 2:30, 5, 7:30 **RAV-OR 1-5** ☎ 5102874 Opera House Jackie Brown 4:15, 7, 9:45 • Titanic 5:15, 9 • As Good As It Gets 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • The Leading Man 5, 7:30, 9:45 Wag the Dog 5, 7:30, 9:45 **TEL AVIV MUSEUM** The Hanging Garden 5, 8, 10
HAIFA
CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI ☎8325755 On connait la chanson 7:15, 9:30 • City of Angels 7:15, 9:30 **CINEMATHEQUE** To Be Or Not To Be 7 • Microcosmos 9:30 **MORIAH** ☎8242477 Gadjo Dilo Fri. 10:30; Sat. 7:30, 9:30; Sun-Wed. 7:30, 9:30 **ORI** ☎8500056 Species II∞The Avengers 7:15, 10 • Grease 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Big Lebowski 7:15, 10 • City of Angels 7:15, 10 • Lethal Weapon IV 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Twilight 4:45, 7:15 10• MouseHunt∞The Borrowers ∞Superboy 4:45 **PANORAMA** ☎8382020 Lethal Weapon IV 4:30, 7, 9:30 • The Real Blonde 4:30, 7, 9:30 • The Avengers 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 **RAV-CHEN** ☎8500055 As Good As It Gets 4:15, 7, 9:30 • Armageddon 4, 6:45, 9:45 • Wild Things 4:45, 7, 9:30 • 6 Days 7 Nights 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Big Hit 5, 7:15, 9:30 **RAV-GAT 1-2** ☎ 8674311 Godzilla 4, 6:45, 9:30 • Titanic 4:45, 8:30 **RAV-MOR 1-7** ☎ 8416898 6 Days 7 Nights 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Mulan *(English dialogue)* 7:15, 9:30 • Armageddon 4, 6:45, 9:30 • The Horse Whisperer 9:30 • *Mulan (Hebrew dialogue)* 5 • Wild Things 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Mafia! 7:30, 10, 12:15 a.m.; 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Dr. Dolittle 5, 7:15 • Godzilla 4:15, 7, 9:30 **RAV-OR 1-3** ☎ 8246553 The Horse Whisperer 6:15, 9:30 • Dr. Dolittle∞Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 5 • Dr. Dolittle∞Pipi Longstocking *(Hebrew dialogue)* 5 • A Price Above Rubies 7, 9:30 • Mulan *(English dialogue)* 7:15 • The Leading Man 9:30
AFULA
RAV CHEN Mafia!∞6 Days 7 Nights 7:15, 9:30 • Armageddon 6:45, 9:45
ARAD
STAR ☎9950904 Godzilla 7, 9:30 • City of Angels 7:15, 9:30• The Avengers 7:15, 9:30
ASHDOD
G.G. GIL ☎ 8647202 City of Angels∞Species II 5, 7:30, 10 • The Spanish Prisoner∞The Avengers 7:30, 10 • Lethal Weapon IV 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Paulie ∞Superboy 5 **ORI** ☎8568073 Red Corner∞As Good As It Gets 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Boxer 5, 7:30, 10 **RAV CHEN** ☎8661120 6 Days 7 Nights ∞Mafia! 5, 7:30, 9:45 • The Horse Whisperer 9:45 • Armageddon 4, 7, 9:45 • Wild Things 7:30, 9:45 • Dr. Dolittle 5, 7:30 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 5 • Godzilla 4:30, 7, 9:45
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RAV CHEN ☎5531077 6 Days 7 Nights 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Species II 7:30, 9:45 • Mafia! 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Armageddon 4:15, 7, 9:45 • Superboy∞Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* Sat. 11 a.m. • Lethal Weapon IV 4:45, 7:15., 9:45 • Godzilla 4:15, 7, 9:45 • Dr. Dolittle 5 • Wild Things 7:30, 9:45
BEERSHEBA
G.G. ORI ☎6103111 SpeciesII 7:30, 10 • Lethal Weapon IV 4:45, 7:15, 10 • *The Big Lebowski* 7:15, 10 • Paulie ∞Superboy 5 • Twilight 5, 7:30, 10 **MAGNIFICENT SIX** Big Brother 4, 6, 10 • Opium Wars 8 • Looking for Lola 4, 6, 8, 10 • Sinbad 4, 6 • Scarred City 8, 10 • Men Always Lie 4, 6, 8 • The Crying Game 10 **RAV-NEGEV 1-4** ☎6235278 6 days 7 Nights5, 7:30, 9:45 • Mafia! 5, 7:30, 9:45 • The Horse Whisperer 9:45 • Armageddon 7, 9:45 • Godzilla 4:30, 7 • Dr. Dolittle 5
EILAT
GIL ☎6340182 Lethal Weapon IV 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Paulie 5 • Superboy 5 • City of Angels 7:30, 10 • Species II 7:30, 10
HADERA
LEV ☎8343555 Species II∞6 Days 7 Nights 7:30, 10 • Mafia! 7:15, 10 • Armageddon 7:15, 10 • Mulan ∞Godzilla 5 • The Horse Whisperer 9:45 • Superboy∞Dr. Dolittle 5
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COLONY ☎6902666 The Horse Whisperer 6, 9:15 • *On Connait La Chanson* 5, 7:30, 10 **DANIEL** ☎9544044 A Price Above Rubies 7:30, 10 **STAR** ☎ 9589068 6 Days 7 Nights 7:30, 10 • Armageddon 7:15, 10 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11:30 a.m., 5 • Lethal Weapon IV 7:30, 10 • Dr. Dolittle 5
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GIL ☎ 7408591 6 Days 7 Nights 5, 7:30, 10 • Mafia! 7:30, 10 • Armageddon 7, 10 • The Parent Trap 4:45 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 5 • Wild Things 7:30, 10 • Pipi Longstocking *(Hebrew dialogue)* 5
HOLON
STAR Titanic 9 • Wild Things Fri. 10 • Godzilla 7:15, 10 • Dr. Dolittle 7:30 • The Real Blonde 7:30, 10
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CINEMA ☎9882521 6 Days 7 Nights ∞Mafia! 7:15, 9:30 • Lethal Weapon IV 7, 9:30
KFAR SAVA
G.G. GIL ☎7677370 Twilight 5, 7:30, 10 • 6 Days 7 Nights 5, 7:30, 10 • Species II∞Mafia! 7:30, 10 • Armageddon 7, 10 • Paulie∞Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* ∞Dr. Dolittle 5 • The Big Lebowski ∞Lethal Weapon IV 7:15, 10 • Superboy∞Pipi Longstocking *(Hebrew dialogue)* 5
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G.G. GIL Species II∞Lethal Weapon IV 7, 9:30 • The Big Lebowski 7, 9:30 • The Horse Whisperer 6:45, 9:30 • Armageddon 6:45, 9:30 • Twilight ∞Godzilla 7, 9:30 • Good Will Hunting 7, 9:30 • Spanish Prisoner 7, 9:30 • The Avengers 7, 9:30
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G.G. GIL ☎8905080 6 Days 7 Nights∞Mafia! 4:30, 7, 9:30 • The Horse Whisperer 6:30, 9:45
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HEICHAL HATARBUT ☎9829933 Armageddon 7, 9:45
UPPER NAZARETH
G.G GIL ☎6561332 6 Days 7 Nights∞Species II 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Wild Things∞Mafia! 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Lethal Weapon IV 4:15, 7, 9:45 • City of Angels 10 • Armageddon 4:15, 7, 10 • Godzilla 4:15, 7
NESS ZIONA
G.G. GIL 1–4 ☎ 9404729 Twilight 5, 7:30, 10 • *Lethal Weapon IV 4:45,* 7:15, 10 • Paulie∞Superboy 5 • The Big Lebowski 7:15, 10 • The Avengers 7:30, 10
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G.G. GIL 1–5 ☎ 8628452 Twilight5, 7:30, 10 • Species II∞The Avengers 7:30, 10 • Superboy∞Paulie 5 • The Big Lebowski∞*Lethal Weapon IV 4:45,* 7:15, 10 **RAV CHEN** ☎ 8618570 6 Days 7 Nights 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Mafia! 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Armageddon 7, 9:45 • The Horse Whisperer 9:45 • Godzilla 4:30, 7, 9:45 • Mulan∞Pipi Longstocking *(Hebrew dialogue)* 5
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OR YEHUDA
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PETAH TIKVA
G.G. GIL 1–6 ☎ 9087989 Twilight ∞Species II 7:30, 10 • Parent Trap∞Mulan*(Hebrew dialogue)* 5 • Pipi Longstocking ∞Paulie *(Hebrew dialogue)* 5 • Superboy 4:45 • The Big Lebowski∞Lethal Weapon IV 7:15, 10 • The Avengers 7, 10 • The Avengers 10 • Dr. Dolittle 5, 7:30 **G.G. HECHAL** ☎ 9317374 6 Days 7 Nights 5, 7:30, 10 • Wild Things 5, 7:30, 10 • Mafia! 5, 7:30, 10
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Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Kucera ousts Agassi



SILENT DESTROYER – Karol Kucera killed off Andre Agassi's US Open hopes yesterday. (AP)

NEW YORK (AP) – Andre Agassi could not weather the storm and the on-again, off-again match against Karol Kucera yesterday, losing a chance to move into the quarterfinals of the US Open.

Kucera, the ninth seed from Slovakia, won 6-3, 6-3, 6-7 (5-7), 1-6 6-3 in a match which was halted by rain Monday night with the No. 8 Agassi on a roll.

When Agassi sailed a backhand long on match point, Kucera had a quarterfinal date with top-seeded Pete Sampras. He beat Sampras in the Australian Open in January.

Earlier, defending champion Patrick Rafter knocked off No. 14 Goran Ivanisevic 6-3, 6-4, 4-6, 6-1; No. 12 Jonas Bjorkman stopped Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands 6-4, 2-6, 6-2, 6-2; and Sweden's Thomas Johansson upset No. 11 Yevgeny Kafelnikov 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, 7-6 (8-6).

Kucera sparkled in the opening two sets on Monday, completely dominating Agassi. But the 1994 US Open champion, just two points away from being ousted from the tournament, reverted to the moonballs of his youth and the power game of his winning years. Agassi won the third set and took a 3-0 lead in the fourth when the rain came.

Agassi roared through the fourth set when play resumed yesterday and broke Kucera to begin the fifth set. It seemed only a matter of time before the much-anticipated quarterfinal pairing between America's top two players would be completed.

Kucera had other ideas, and they were helped when Agassi's game again disappeared midway through the fifth.

After that, Kucera sprayed the court with winners while Agassi continually found the net with his shots.

It was the fourth time in Agassi's career that he has rallied from two sets down only to lose in the fifth. The last time was in the fourth round at Wimbledon in 1994 when he fell to Todd Martin.

Rafter will next take on his doubles partner, Bjorkman.

On Monday, top-seeded Pete Sampras gained a quarterfinal berth by defeating Marat Safin of Russia 6-4, 6-3, 6-2.

In women's fourth-round matches, No. 2 Lindsay Davenport downed No. 10 Nathalie Tauziat 6-1, 6-4; No. 4 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario defeated No. 15 Anna Kournikova 7-6 (7-5), 6-3; No. 5 Venus Williams stopped No. 12 Mary Pierce 6-1, 7-6 (7-4) and No. 13 Amanda Coetzer upset No. 7 Conchita Martinez 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.

The women's quarterfinals pair Davenport against Coetzer and Williams against Sanchez Vicario in the bottom half of the draw.

The top half, scheduled for last night, had No. 1 Martina Hingis, the defending champion, vs. No. 6 Monica Seles, and No. 3 Jana Novotna against No. 11 Patty Schnyder.

Sampras had 18 aces and never lost his serve in his victory over the 18-year-old Safin. It was the 600th match win of his career.

After winning the final six points of the tiebreaker in her win over Pierce, Williams celebrating by shimmying to the net.

At 5-5 in the second set, the two delighted the crowd with a game that lasted 13 minutes, 57 seconds, and ended when Williams converted her seventh break point. Pierce broke right back and took a 4-1 lead in the tiebreak, but didn't get another point in the match.

Leeds go top of premier league

LONDON (Reuters) – Leeds leapt to the top of the English premier league last night with a comprehensive 3-0 victory over Southampton.

The victory sees Leeds go top – a point above Liverpool who entertain Coventry tonight – while Southampton stay rooted at the bottom of the table, still without a point.

In yesterday's other match, Everton scored their first goals of the season as they beat Nottingham Forest 2-0 away.

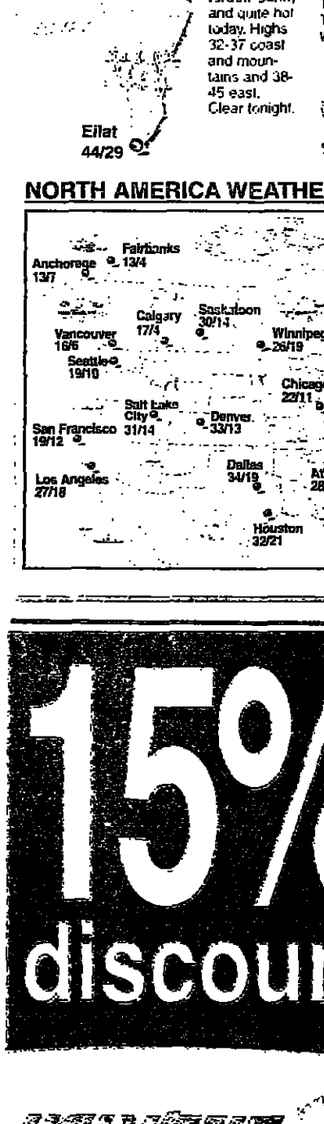
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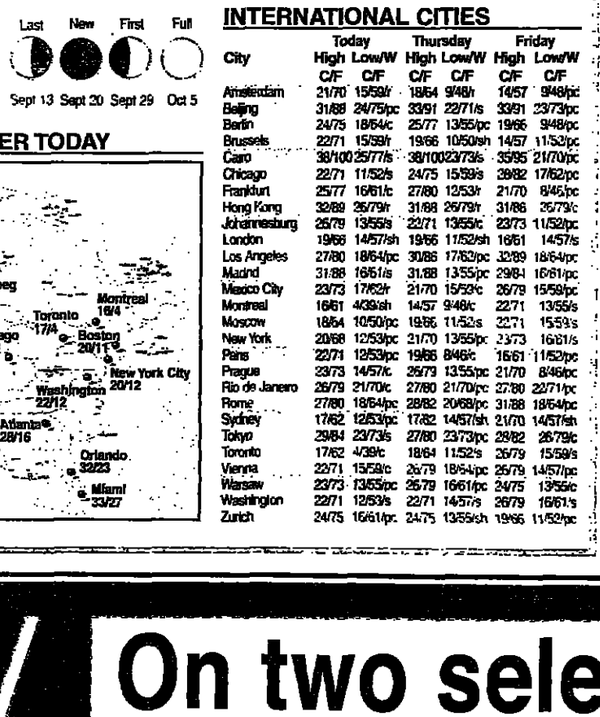
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ISRAEL

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EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Thursday High C/F	Thursday Low/W C/F	Friday High C/F	Friday Low/W C/F	Saturday High C/F	Saturday Low/W C/F
Ariel	38/100	22/71/s	36/97	20/68/s	36/97	20/68/pc	34/93	20/68/pc
Beersheba	35/95	18/64/s	33/91	18/64/s	33/91	18/64/pc	31/88	18/64/pc
Dead Sea	45/113	25/77/s	43/109	23/73/s	41/106	23/73/pc	39/102	23/73/pc
Eilat	44/111	29/84/s	42/107	27/80/s	40/104	27/80/pc	38/100	25/77/pc
Haifa	33/91	22/71/s	31/88	20/68/s	31/88	20/68/pc	29/84	20/68/pc
Jerusalem	33/91	18/64/s	31/88	18/64/s	31/88	18/64/pc	29/84	16/61/pc
Katzrin	39/102	16/61/s	37/98	16/61/s	35/95	14/57/pc	35/95	14/57/pc
Netanya	34/93	22/71/s	32/89	20/68/s	30/86	20/68/pc	30/86	20/68/pc
Tel Aviv	37/98	23/73/s	35/95	21/70/s	32/89	21/70/pc	30/86	21/70/pc
Tiberias	39/102	22/71/s	37/98	20/68/s	37/98	20/68/pc	35/95	20/68/pc

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

Last New First Full

Sept 13 Sept 20 Sept 29 Oct 5

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Thursday High C/F	Thursday Low/W C/F	Friday High C/F	Friday Low/W C/F
Amsterdam	21/70	15/59/r	18/64	9/48/r	14/57	9/48/pc
Beijing	31/88	24/75/pc	33/91	22/71/s	33/91	23/73/pc
Berlin	24/75	18/64/c	25/77	13/55/pc	19/66	9/48/pc
Brussels	22/71	15/59/r	19/66	10/50/sh	14/57	11/52/pc
Cairo	38/100	25/77/s	38/100	23/73/s	35/95	21/70/pc
Chicago	22/71	11/52/s	24/75	15/59/s	28/82	17/62/pc
Frankfurt	25/77	16/61/c	27/80	12/53/r	21/70	8/46/pc
Hong Kong	32/89	26/79/r	31/88	26/79/r	31/88	26/79/c
Johannesburg	26/79	13/55/s	22/71	13/55/c	23/73	11/52/pc
London	19/66	14/57/sh	19/66	11/52/sh	16/61	14/57/s
Los Angeles	27/80	18/64/pc	30/86	17/62/pc	32/89	18/64/pc
Madrid	31/88	16/61/s	31/88	13/55/pc	29/84	16/61/pc
Mexico City	23/73	17/62/r	21/70	15/59/c	26/79	15/59/pc
Montreal	16/61	4/39/sh	14/57	9/48/c	22/71	13/55/s
Moscow	18/64	10/50/pc	19/66	11/52/s	22/71	15/59/s
New York	20/68	12/53/pc	21/70	13/55/pc	23/73	16/61/s
Paris	22/71	12/53/pc	19/66	8/46/c	16/61	11/52/pc
Prague	23/73	14/57/c	26/79	13/55/pc	21/70	8/46/pc
Rio de Janeiro	26/79	21/70/c	27/80	21/70/pc	27/80	22/71/pc
Rome	27/80	18/64/pc	28/82	20/68/pc	31/88	18/64/pc
Sydney	17/62	12/53/pc	17/62	14/57/sh	21/70	14/57/sh
Tokyo	29/84	23/73/s	27/80	23/73/pc	28/82	26/79/c
Toronto	17/62	4/39/c	18/64	11/52/s	26/79	15/59/s
Vienna	22/71	15/59/c	26/79	18/64/pc	26/79	14/57/pc
Warsaw	23/73	13/55/pc	26/79	16/61/pc	24/75	13/55/c
Washington	22/71	12/53/s	22/71	14/57/s	26/79	16/61/s
Zurich	24/75	16/61/pc	24/75	13/55/sh	19/66	11/52/pc

NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY



Hapoel host Maccabi today in Haifa derby

By OFER RONEN-ABELS

Hapoel Haifa host city rivals Maccabi at Kiryat Eliezer this evening (kick off at 6 p.m.) in a rearranged league fixture.

Due to Maccabi's European Cup Winners Cup clash against Glentoran of Northern Ireland, the derby was postponed until tonight.

More than 7,000 spectators have already bought tickets and about 15,000 are expected at Kiryat Eliezer in a clash between two of Israel's big spenders which will attract much interest outside Haifa as well.

The game will be shown live on Channel 2.

In other news yesterday, Avi Nimni returned to National League soccer and will play with Maccabi Tel Aviv in the coming season.

The Atletico Madrid player is on loan to his old club for a reported $200,000 while he seeks another European club.

Atletico will continue to pay Nimni's salary, however, which is valued at $450,000.

Merson moves to Aston Villa

BIRMINGHAM (Reuters) – England midfielder Paul Merson has completed a £6.75 million move from Middlesbrough to premier league rivals Aston Villa, the Midlands club said yesterday.

After passing a medical, Mesrson signed a contract for three years plus the remainder of this season.

Villa are not yet sure whether the deal was completed in time for the 30-year-old to make his debut in tonight's premier league game with Newcastle Unted at Villa Park.

"I'm pleased it has been sorted out quickly because sometimes these things can drag on," said Merson. "I understand the business was all done and dusted between the clubs within a few hours." Merson strenuously denied newspaper reports that he had walked out on Middlesbrough after writing in a weekend column that he was worried about his health if he were to stay. He had been due to meet coach Bryan Robson on Monday to discuss his future but the meeting did not take place.

"Byran Robson told my agent, who rang me, not to turn up yesterday, so I stayed in London with the family.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLISH SOCCER – Division One: Barnsley 1, Norwich 3; Birmingham 2, Stockport 0; Bury 2, Portsmouth 1; Crewe 0, Crystal Palace 1; Huddersfield 2, Watford 0; Ipswich 3, Bradford 0; Port Vale 2, Wolverhampton 1; Queens Park Rangers 0, Tranmere 0; Sheffield United 3, Grimsby 2; Sunderland 1, Bristol City 1; West Bromwich 2, Bolton 3.

Division Two: Blackpool 1, Notts County 0; Bristol Rovers 0, Chesterfield 0; Fulham 1, Stoke 0; Gillingham 2, Northampton 3; Manchester City 2, Bournemouth 1; Oldham 1, Macclesfield 2; Walsall 2, York 3; Wigan 1, Colchester 1; Wrexham 1, Luton 1; Wycombe 0, Preston 1.

Division Three: Cardiff 1, Barnet 0; Carlisle 1, Swansea 2; Darlington 2, Hartlepool 0; Exeter 0, Brighton 0; Hull 2, Rochdale 1; Leyton Orient 1, Mansfield 1; Peterborough 3, Chester 0; Rotherham 0, Plymouth 2; Scunthorpe 3, Cambridge 2; Southend 0, Halifax 0; Torquay 3, Brentford 1.

Baseball's got your number

ST. LOUIS – Sixty-one ... 56 ... 714 ...

Numbers. They are baseball's guideposts, its link to the past, its path to the future, its bridge between the generations. They intrigue and enlighten, baffle and overwhelm, and they're as much a part of the National Pastime as hot dogs and batting practice.

From the newspaper's daily listing of box scores to the voluminous *Baseball Encyclopedia*, numbers are everywhere, especially during a season like this, when Mark McGwire equaled one of the sport's most revered records with Sammy Sosa not far behind.

No other sport so readily immerses itself in records and the men who break them. No other sport has spawned a cottage industry of authors and analysts who subject baseball to all sorts of statistical scrutiny.

Quick, off the top of your head, how many points did Kareem Abdul-Jabbar score in his NBA career? How many goals did Gordie Howe score? How many yards did Walter Payton rush for? But even the most casual sports fan can tell you Roger Maris – and now McGwire – hit 61 homers in a season, Joe DiMaggio had a 56-game hitting streak, Babe Ruth had 714 homers in his career.

"They are relatively clean figures to arrive at," said William McGill, a historian and part-owner of *Spitball*, a literary baseball magazine. "They are also manageable numbers, like 714 homers. But 20,000 points in a career, that gets a little clumsy. Compare a pitcher's ERA with a quarterback's efficiency rating. Nobody understands what an efficiency rating is or how you arrive at it. The ERA is a simple, straightforward thing that tells you something that happened in the game."

In baseball, there are numbers for everything. How many games did the pitcher win? How many innings did he pitch? How many runs did he allow? How many strikeouts did he have? Walks? Balks? Wild pitches? Hit by pitches? Games pitched? Complete games? If that pitcher happens to be a reliever, there's a whole different set of numbers – saves converted, saves blown and something new – the "hold."

Homers, RBIs, batting average and stolen bases are merely the beginning for a hitter. There's doubles. Triples. Slugging percentage. Total bases. On-base percentage. Walks. Strikeouts. Sacrifices.

And let's not forget about defense. There's errors, total chances and fielding percentage to shed light on that aspect of the game.

Even the scoreboard betrays an obsession with numbers. For instance, it takes more than a casual glance to digest all the information on the five scoreboards that hover above the outfield at Busch Stadium.

Atop the upper deck, there's a hand-operated board stretching nearly the width of fair territory, with the inning-by-inning scores for every game in the major leagues – not to mention player numbers that have been retired by the Cardinals and the team's World Series-winning seasons.

Two more large scoreboards dangle from the lip of the upper deck in left- and right-center, providing balls, strikes, outs and other tidbits of information. Finally, small boards are located atop each bullpen, providing stats on both teams' pitchers.

"Baseball is a sport where stats count," Cincinnati shortstop Barry Larkin said. "If you don't have the stats, you don't have the credentials. If you don't have the credentials, you don't have the basis to ask for this and that monetarily."

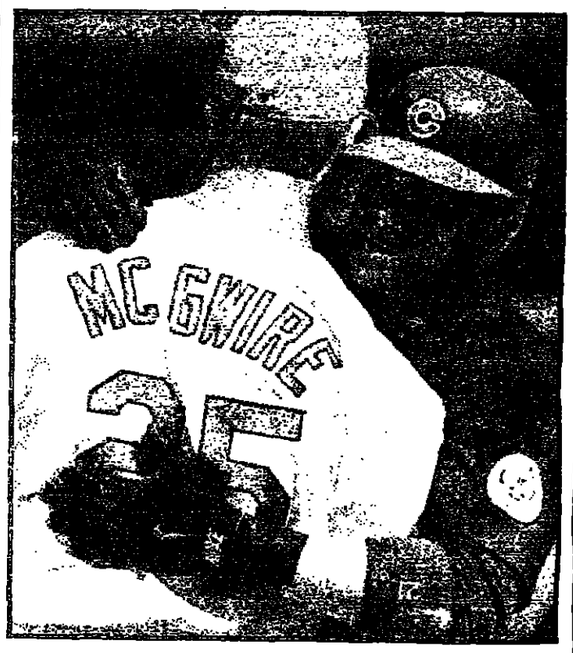
"When I was playing, we didn't talk about numbers that much," said former Cardinals second baseman Red Schoendienst, who played in the 1950s. "The players all get stats from the PR man every day, broken down all kinds of ways. We didn't get that much information when I was playing."

It all starts with the box score, as essential to the game as a bat and ball. Just a cursory glance can bring a contest from 50 years ago back to life.

"The box scores have been very important in baseball from the beginning," McGill said. "It's something you can look at and understand the game in a much different way than you can from statistics in any other sport."

Commissioner Bud Selig said. "It's incredible. People never forget the numbers. You can't say that about any other sport."

And as if to prove that baseball is the true family sport, McGwire hit his 61st home run on his father's 61st birthday. Go figure. (AP)



THE MAIN MAN – Sammy Sosa hugs Mark McGwire after the latter hit his 61st home run on Monday, tying Roger Maris's 67-year-old mark. (Reuters)

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